Issues/Concerns for which Circles may be Appropriate

1. Anger management
   Example prompts:
   - What are some things that bug you? How do you handle them?
   - When was a time you remember feeling frustrated and why?
   - What makes you angry and why?
   - What are ways you can manage your anger?

2. Climate of disrespect or rudeness
   Example prompts:
   - What makes relationships work out well?
   - How does it make you feel when somebody is rude to you?
   - What can each of us do to build a climate that conveys respect?

3. Diversity
   Example prompts:
   - What does diversity mean to you?
   - What are ways we can learn from each other’s differences?

4. End of the Marking Period
   Example prompts:
   - If you’re missing work, what do you need to do and what supports are needed?
   - If you didn’t do your best, specifically what can you do differently next term?
   - What’s one thing you did well? What’s one thing that was challenging?
   - When things are not interesting, what suggestions do you have to make them more interesting?
   - What can you do to improve your grade next term?
   - What is one word to describe the past quarter?
   - What is one change and goal you plan to achieve next term?

5. Cutting class when it involves multiple students
   Example prompts:
   - Who is affected by your cutting class/being absent? In what way?
   - Who is responsible for you during the school day?
   - What should you have done differently?
   - What can you do to make things right?

6. Global events
   Example prompts:
   - Does anyone have anything they would like to say about the recent earthquake/hurricane?

7. Group project
   Example prompts:
   - Name something you can do on the project.

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The list of concerns/issues is actually endless. This list provides examples for illustration purposes.

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What will our group challenges be?  
What supports are needed to work well in groups?  
How can you support another in your group?

8. Homework incompletion
Example prompts:
- What’s the biggest challenge for you in completing the homework?  
- What’s the purpose of homework?  
- What makes homework important?  
- What’s something you need to make the homework more doable?  
- What barriers exist to completing the homework? Or what prevents you from completing your homework?  
- What supports can exist to help with homework?  
- What can you do to support a classmate who is having a hard time with the homework?  
- What can the class/community do to support those who need help with homework?

9. Local tragedies
Example prompts:
- What are your concerns about the recent death of ___?  
- Is there anything you would like to share about ____?  
- What can we do to support ___ in this time of need?

10. Negative person
Example prompts:
- How do the actions of one affect many?  
- What do we need from each other to do our best?

11. Problem-solving and advocacy
Example prompts:
- Think of a time it was hard for you or a friend to speak up, and what was difficult about it?  
- What would help you or your friends feel empowered to speak up when in conflict?  
- What are non-violent ways you can stand up for yourself?

12. Students in a fight/conflict with others present
Example prompts:
- What happened yesterday?  
- What was your part in this?  
- Who else besides ___ and ___ is affected by this?  
- What can you do to make things right?  
- What can you do to prevent future outbreaks?

13. Student misbehavior
Example prompts:
- What are appropriate ways to behave in class/in the cafeteria/in the halls?  
- What can you do if you feel the urge to act out? How can you resist creating problems for others?
Without naming names, can you think of a time when somebody did something that negatively affected the feelings of others? How did those affected feel? What could have helped improve things?

14. Substitute teacher/misconduct by students
   Example prompts: What expectations do I have of you with a substitute? How did things go yesterday with the substitute? Who is affected by the misbehavior? In what way? What needs to happen to make things right?

15. Things missing
   Example prompts: Think of a time when something important of yours was missing. How did this make you feel? What impact, if any, does the concern of missing belongings have on the class and learning? What can each of us do to help create an environment where materials/belongings stay safe and are there when we need them?

16. Upcoming Field Trip
   Example prompts: What do we want X to say about our school? What do we need to do so they will say these things? What would make the field trip a success? Why are there so few field trips? What makes a good field trip? What would make an effective field trip? How are you expected to behave on a field trip? What do we want them (hosting organizing) to say about us after we leave? If we see something going on, what can each of us do? What are your goals for the field trip? What do you want to gain from the field trip?

17. Ways for teacher to be more effective
   Example prompts: What can I, your teacher, do to help you succeed in class? What can I do to make this assignment more doable for you?