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BEST PRACTICES

As you get acquainted with your roundtable, here are some of the keys to successful self-facilitated discussions

Confidentiality

All content shared within your roundtable is held confidential. Not only is that a courtesy to all members; it ensures an environment of trust, which leads to more meaningful conversations.

Commitment

Set aside the time for your monthly meeting each month. Barring any unforeseen emergency or essential work/personal travel — Make the commitment to yourself and your group to be in attendance. You will be rewarded with peers who are fully engaged in your issues. Discuss commitment with you group — Most have unwritten expectation of at least 80% attendance.

Be Prepared

While roundtables are not based on pre-planned content, give a few moments of thought to what your burning issues/opportunities are before you arrive. By collecting your thoughts, you and your group can maximize the most of your monthly sessions. Some groups opt to use an update form — ask your leader.

Gestalt

Just a fancy word to explain — Share your experience; not directive or opinion. When a roundtable member is facing an issue, they can best benefit from their peers' own experience — not direct advice. By adhering to Gestalt language, your group will be able to assist one another through troubled waters, without causing unintended insult.

Format

Your roundtable has been designed to get to the heart of issues by following a specific format. At the start, each person has 3-5 minutes (uninterrupted time) to share pressing issues/opportunities. The group will likely select a few to spend time on. Others will be put in the parking lot for next time. The volunteer leader will help ensure there is equitable participation of all members.