

THE INNER CIRCLE



“When Darnellia was a freshman, she wasn't really into being a team player. She was a marvelous, gifted athlete, but not about the team. That's what she learned at Roosevelt. She became the consummate team player.”

— Coach Bill Resler

PART A. In the exhilarating and emotional documentary *The Heart of the Game* from Miramax Films, Bill Resler, coach of the girls' basketball team at Roosevelt High School in Seattle, decided that the best way for the girls on his team to both solve their problems and gel as a team was for them to be part of their own "Inner Circle"—with no parents, coaches or any authority figures to help resolve conflicts. The girls worked out their issues and problems together. The results molded this group of very different girls into a powerhouse, built around teamwork.

CREATE YOUR OWN INNER CIRCLE

Keep in mind that conflict often occurs over power, property, loyalty, territory or jealousy and envy. Working in a group, choose and describe a problem in your class, school, or community. _____

If you were to set up an Inner Circle to solve this problem, who would you invite to be in that circle? _____

What specific issues would you discuss? _____

What conflict resolution techniques would you institute to help your discussion? _____

What results would you expect to achieve? _____

Consider the Inner Circle concept as compared to traditional methods of solving problems (such as going to parents, teachers, or other authority figures).

Advantages: _____

Disadvantages: _____

PART B. Coach Resler used some unusual methods to help his players work together as a team. He told them to think of themselves as a "pack of wolves" swarming around its prey, ready to devour it. Later he used the image of a "pride of lions" out for the hunt. He also told them that they were a "tropical storm" blowing in off the coast to devastate everything in its path.

AS A CLASS, DISCUSS:

- How could his methods promote teamwork in the classroom, or in extra-curricular activities like school plays, school orchestra and band, or academic clubs?
- Do you think your peers would be reluctant or embarrassed to accept Coach Resler's approach? What would make you accept this inspirational concept?
- Who or what gives you the desire to achieve?

Look for **THE HEART OF THE GAME** coming to a theater near you this summer.

Go to www.heartofthegame-film.com to find out when the film is coming to your area or for group sales information.

