CONVERSATION CAFÉ FOR YOUTH — The Roles

**Welcomer:** Welcomes people and makes them feel comfortable. Begins by introducing self and sharing how it feels to talk in a group. Asks others to introduce themselves around the circle and say how it feels for them to talk in a group. Asks each person to read an Agreement and say what it means to them. Then asks group if they can agree to these.

**Explainer:** Describes the Rounds and use of the talking object. Starts Rounds 1 and 2 by going first.

**Inviter:** States the topic or question for the Conversation. Starts the conversation by offering the talking object to someone who would like to begin. During the conversation, the Inviter may ask quiet people, "Would someone who hasn’t shared as much like to add something?"

**Reminder:** Gently interrupts someone not following an Agreement by saying, “Excuse me, but the agreement about __________ is being broken.” To signal that an agreement is being broken, the Reminder does not need to hold the talking object to interrupt. If unkind words are said, say, “Let’s take a moment of silence and think about what’s happening.”

**Focuser:** Keeps the conversation moving by saying, “Can someone say more about that?” The Focuser can also keep the conversation on the topic by saying, “Getting back to the topic, what hasn’t been said about it yet?” A few minutes before the final round needs to begin, the Focuser gives the group a signal by saying, “There are 3 minutes before the final round begins, so what else can we say about this topic?”

**Opposer:** During the conversation, the Opposer brings in opinions not being shared or asks questions such as “Could the opposite of that be true?” The Opposer starts the Final Round by saying, “In this final round with the talking object, say what was interesting or important to you about this conversation. I will begin.” After speaking, the Opposer passes the talking object to the right around the circle.