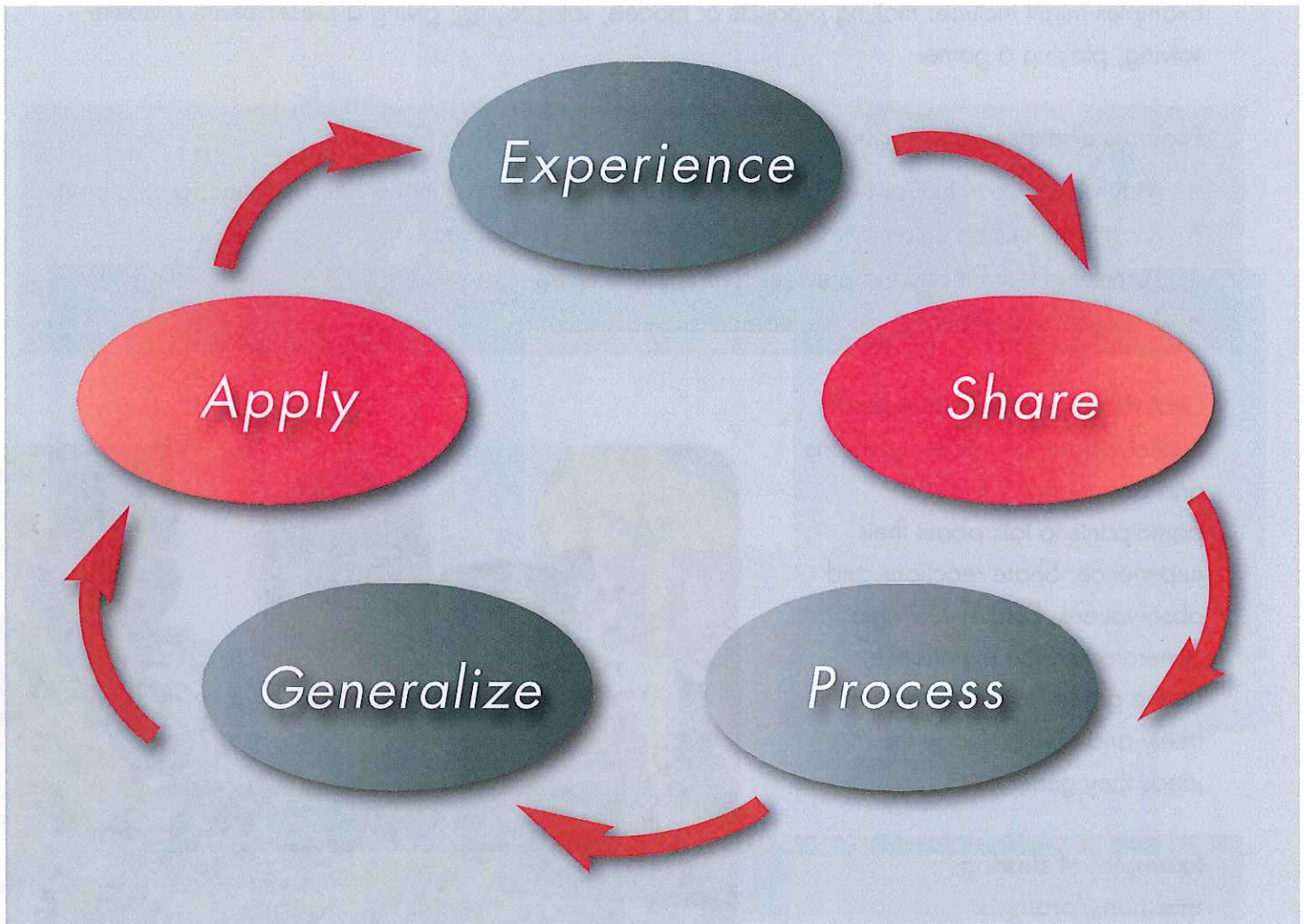


Inquiry - Theory to Practice
HANDOUT

5-Step Learning Cycle



Inquiry – Theory to Practice **HANDOUT**

5-Step Learning Cycle Definitions

EXPLORATION: Perform or do an activity with little or no help from the facilitator/teacher. Examples might include: making products or models; role-playing; giving a presentation; problem-solving; playing a game.

Features of experiences include:

- May be an individual or group experience, but involves doing that is hands-on and/or minds-on.
- Most likely will be unfamiliar to the learners – a first-time activity.
- Pushes the learner beyond previous performance levels.
- May be “uncomfortable” to the learner.

SHARING: “What Happened”

Publicly share the results, reactions and observations. Get the participants to talk about their experience. Share reactions and observations. Discuss feelings generated by the experience. Let the group (or individual) talk freely and acknowledge the ideas they generate.



Examples of sharing questions/prompts:

- Explain what you did.
- Discuss what happened.
- What did you see, feel, hear taste?
- What, in your opinion, was the most difficult part of this experience? Easiest?



PROCESSING: "What's Important?"

Discussing the experience; analyze it; and reflect upon it.

Discuss how the experience was carried out. Discuss how themes, problems, and issues are brought out by the experience. Discuss how specific problems or issues were addressed. Discuss personal experiences of members. Encourage the group to look for recurring themes.

**Examples of processing questions/prompts:**

- What problems or issues seemed to you to occur over and over?
- Discuss any similar experiences you may have had previously.

GENERALIZING: "So What?"

Connect the experience with real world examples. Find general trends or common truths in the experience. Identify "real life" principles that surfaced. Discover/Introduce key terms and concepts that capture the learning.

Examples of generalizing questions:

- Discuss something you may have learned about yourself through this activity. How, in your opinion, might that be important in your daily life?
- In what ways might what you learned through this experience relate to other parts of your life?

APPLICATION: "Now What?"

Apply what was learned to a similar or different situation. Discuss how new learning can be applied to other situations. Discuss how issues raised can be useful in the future. Discuss how more effective behaviors can develop from the new learning. Help each individual feel a sense of ownership for what was learned.

Example questions about applying the experience:

- Explain ways you think you may be able to apply what learned to a similar situation in the future.
- In what ways do you believe you might be able to apply what you learned to a new situation?

