Concentric Circle Conversations
Theme: Alcohol and Other illegal Substances

The goal of this activity is to have students have productive conversations about alcohol and substance use in their community on campus. It is not to tell them to abstain, or to educate them on details of alcohol and illegal substances, but to get them to think about choices and the consequences to themselves, and others around them in the community.

Instructions:
Divide your class into half. Form an inner circle with students facing out, and an outer circle of students facing in, so that everyone is partnered and directly in front of a classmate. The first two questions you will ask without having the class respond back to you out loud. This will help with them get more comfortable with each other. The remainder of the questions can have multiple answers and you will want the class to respond with their answers and encourage a debate-style conversation. You may need to ask your own questions to prod them into thinking about their answers and if they would change based on gender, judicial consequences, roommate conflicts, pure pressure on relationships, etc. The italicized phrases at the end of each question are for instructor as a guide if necessary. Factual information to judicial processes and resources may be in links in these sections as well. Lastly, you may want to announce to the class that it is important that the class understand that this is a judgment-free zone and that conversations don’t leave the room.

Note:
The scenarios in this activity are from a real life experience of one Boston university student during her freshman year.

1. Tell your partner your experiences surrounding alcohol or drugs growing up. It can be a personal account or one observed. Talk about how alcohol and drugs were viewed or valued growing up in your household. (Give 5 min to talk, but don’t have them report back in)

2. Tell your partner one story or experience that you have seen or been involved in pertaining to drugs or alcohol on this campus since arriving.

3. You are out studying late on a Thursday night and come back to your dorm room to hear loud music pulsing through the door. You walk in and see twelve other students and your roommate in your room with beer bottles and a few of them are dancing. One student in particular is someone you are attracted too and have been wanting to get to know better. What do you do? If you don’t join the fun, what are the reasons why and how do you shut the party down? Do you pull your roommate aside, leave and tell the RA? What is the peer pressure in this scenario and how do you handle it? What happens when you are “written up by the RA?”
   
   http://www.bu.edu/dos/policies/lifebook/drugs-alcohol/

   You and a friend go out and are both drinking alcohol. Your friend consumes twice as much as you in an extremely short amount of time, and quickly becomes so inebriated that she cannot function normally, can’t stand up or sit up, and she is becoming unresponsive verbally. You are highly concerned as you have never seen her this way before, and you are extremely concerned for her well-being. What do you do? Call BU PD?
4. You're a bit shy and have been invited to a frat party in Allston. You really want to go as it would be a good way to meet people. When you arrive you are a bit overwhelmed with the amount of people there. You see pot getting passed around and know that it may relax you, or you could have a small cup of the jungle juice out of the barrel in the corner of the room. You know if you have one drink or one puff, it will loosen you up to socialize. **What do you do?** What are the possible ramifications if you drink from the open container – Roofie, alcohol content, reasons behind a frat party allowing that type of alcohol to be there, reputation of frat parties, etc. Marijuana use – what are people’s stand on it? What are ramifications?

5. You and a friend head out to a house party in Allston. You have a good time for the first twenty minutes, but all of a sudden you are feeling overwhelmed and want to leave immediately. You know your friend had been looking forward to the party for weeks and you made the trip all the way into Allston, so you don’t want to ruin her good time. **What do you do?** Walking home alone – you can talk about the gender differences such as a female walking home versus a male, etc. (cab/Uber/Escort when on campus) [http://www.bu.edu/police/safety/escort/]