

Walk Talk Introduction

Hesci. Oske Wske cvhocefkv tos. Halito. Chahta ohoyo sia.

Howdy y'all! I am Misty Underwood. I am a Muscogee and Choctaw descendent. I moved from Texas in 2010 for graduate studies. I have stayed for employment and am tremendously grateful and fortunate to be working with folks across Queen's University with the goal of growing a new pathway for Indigenous learners.

The name Walk Talk comes from Akan 1992. The Walk Talk as a pedagogical practice comes from my Pokni (Choctaw for grandmother). Through our walks, my Pokni taught me how to approach the land as a relative and as my teacher. It was the foundation of how I was raised and has become a foundational element of my life and teaching practice. It is my humble hope to share her teachings by sharing this experience.

Overview of the Experience

Our Walk Talk will begin with offering protocol. Upon offering our protocol, we will ask a question of the land. As we walk together, we will use all of our senses to pay attention to life around us. Notice what we are experiencing through our senses. Notice our body. Notice how we are feeling. The emphasis is on noticing what is happening around us without actively thinking about the question.

Depending on what we encounter during our walk, I may share teachings, stories, and/or locate medicines.

At the end of our walk, we will have a circle. Within the circle you will share what you noticed, and how what you experienced informed your response to the question.

Logistics

The Walk Talk should be in a natural place with as little development as possible. I acknowledge the sad reality that access to natural space is limited in and around the Kingston area. However, I feel Queen's as an institution has an important responsibility to create opportunities for accessing land. If you are interested in hosting a Walk Talk experience for your class, unit, event, or group, it will require being able and willing to facilitate access to a natural place with trails. The experience using takes around 2 hours (excluding travel time to and from the University) and is best experienced when limited to 20-25 people or less. Modifications to the experience may be made in extenuating circumstances.

Mvto, Yakoke hoke (thank you very much).