SYP Tool: **Don't Gossip**

Title: What are we talking about?

Objective: Discuss the definition of gossip and impact of workplace gossip.

Material: Loose Lips Sink Shifts Article

Setup: Gossip is a part of every organizational culture. Some argue that it is simply idle conversation which helps to keep employees informed, while others see gossip as a time wasting activity which can prove to be destructive to the culture and relationships. One organization took a stand against gossip to see if they could increase their productivity. (See Loose Lips Sink Shifts article)

Use the discussion points below to clarify the definition and impact of gossip in your group/organization.

Activity: Have the group work in pairs or triads to develop a definition for gossip. Have each group present it to the larger group.

Have the group capture on a flipchart or whiteboard all of the gossip topics they hear at work. (**Optional:** Have each individual vote for 3 gossip topics that they feel are the most talked about in the office. This multi-voting technique will help identify the answer to the first debrief question.)

Debrief:

- What is our biggest gossip topic? Why do you think that it is such a popular topic?

- How does it make you feel when you hear gossip? Pass it on?

- What do you do when you hear gossip?

- What is the impact of gossip on you/the team/ the organization? What could you do to stop the gossip and encourage the flow of facts?

Speak
your
Peace