

Restorative Practices

High School Restorative Practices

Student Reflection: High School

The video explores two schools' implementation of Restorative Practices. Use the following questions to reflect on the information presented and to frame your own thoughts about Restorative Practices.

- 1. In the beginning moments, one student says, "Circles are powerful." Why are circles powerful? How do they differ from other methods of group meetings?

- 2. The principal of Dreamyard Preparatory High School, Alicia Wargo, says Restorative Practices build community. What does that mean to you in a school setting? What does that mean to you for any other place people gather? What does it take to build a community? Why?

- 3. The film shows three forms of mediation: Mediation (with a Teacher), Peer Mediation, and Fairness Meetings.
 - What are the qualities you observed in each?
 - How are they similar? How do they differ from each other?
 - How does the word "respect" apply to each method?
 - Which would you be most comfortable in? Why?

- 4. One of the students, Malachi Herrera, says, "Nobody ever walks out of peer mediation with a problem."
 - What does that tell you about the process?
 - What does that tell you about the school community?

5. The James Baldwin High School teacher who brought the issue to the Fairness Meeting says, "Students can hear students better than adults sometimes."

- Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Why are there two students present at Fairness Meetings?
- How would you feel if you were brought into a Fairness Meeting to solve an issue? Why?

6. Brady Smith, the principal of James Baldwin High School, says that the goal of Restorative Practices is to "grow the skills and repair the harm." What do those words mean to you? Why?

7. How would or how have Restorative Practices improved your school community?

8. Should Restorative Practices be used in other places besides school? Explain your answer.
