

Restorative Practices

High School Restorative Practices

Reflection Sheet: Teacher

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." How are circles used in this short film? How have you used circles in your classroom practices? How does this statement compare/contrast to your experiences?

- 2. The principal of Dreamyard Preparatory High School, Alicia Wargo, says Restorative Practices build community. What practices have you used to build community in your classroom and in your school? Compare/contrast to the practices you observed in this video.

- 3. The film shows three forms of mediation: Mediation (with a Teacher), Peer Mediation, and Fairness Meetings.

- How is respect modeled and implemented in each?

- What do you think is the most powerful statement made by students about the different forms of mediation? Why?

- How comfortable would you be as the facilitator of a Mediation Meeting? Discuss your response.

- How comfortable would you be participating with a student in a Fairness Meeting? Discuss your response.

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

5. Alicia Wargo credits the drop in suspensions (185 to three) to Restorative Practices. What questions does this data inspire?

6. Brady Smith, the principal of Baldwin High School, says that seeing Restorative Practices in action reminded him of why he first became a teacher, and then he credits Restorative Practices as the leading factor for why he became a school leader. How does this compare/contrast with your own personal story for your professional choices?

7. Brady Smith says that the goal of Restorative Practices is to "grow the skills and repair the harm." What is the harm that needs to be repaired? What skills are necessary? How do you already teach those skills? How might/how does training in Restorative Practices help you develop those skills for yourself and for your students?
