

Restorative Practices

Peer Mediation

Student Reflection: Middle School

After watching the video about Peer Mediation, think about your answers to the questions below and share your answers with your classroom community.

- 1. Wendy Halm-Violette tells us that a mediator serves as a neutral third person that can help us to see both sides of a conflict. Why do we sometimes need a third person to help us to see a conflict from a different perspective? Why can't we always see conflict from multiple sides on our own?

- 2. Think about a conflict that you were a part of or observed at your school. How was the problem dealt with? Who decided upon the consequences? Do you think that Peer Mediation would be an effective way to work through that problem? Why or why not?

- 3. What is "confidentiality"? In what other contexts have you heard that term? Why is it an important piece of Peer Mediation?

- 4. Why do the mediators ask questions rather than make statements during the Peer Mediation? How do questions, rather than statements help the two disputants come to a solution that they both want?

- 5. What does the term "empowerment" mean to you? In what situations do you feel most empowered? Why do you think a program like Peer Mediation would lead to students feeling empowered?
