## **Restorative Practices**

## **Restorative Conferences Student Reflection: Middle School**

Use the following to think about and/or discuss the video, "Restorative Conferences."

1.	Restorative Conference trainer Joseph McCarthy says, "Listening is an act of love." What does that phrase mean? Why do you think he felt it necessary to make this statement to the teachers in the group learning how to lead Restorative Conferences?
2.	Restorative Conferences are meetings held to help students work through issues where one person has been harmed and the other person caused the harm. How would it be helpful to know your teacher had learned how to hold Restorative Conferences?
3.	One teacher says that Restorative Conferences help everyone make a plan to "restore the community." What are the elements of a community? What are some actions that might harm a community? Why is it important to "restore the community"?

- **4.** The teachers are trained to ask a lot of questions when they have a Restorative Conferences. Below is a list of a few of the questions used in Restorative Conferences that you saw/heard teachers practicing in role plays:
  - What exactly happened?
  - Can you tell me what you were thinking at that time?
  - Can you give me your version of what exactly happened?
  - What would you like to see happen next?
  - Is there anyting that youd like to say at this time?

	Why is it important that both people involved, the person who caused the harm and the person who was harmed, are asked the same questions? What other questions would you add to this list?
5.	How does the act of asking a lot of questions relate to Joseph McCarthy's first statement, "Listening is an act of love"?