

Restorative Practices

Peer Mediation

Student Reflection: High 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. What does the term “mediator” mean to you? List several words that have the same root as “mediator” (medi). How are those words related to the idea of a mediator? What makes a “peer mediator” different from a regular “mediator”?

- 2. Conflict resolution specialist, Wendy Halm-Violette, explains that the goal of Peer Mediation is “to have a win-win situation created by the two disputants, as well as the mediators who are students.” What is the value in having all participants in Peer Mediations be students? How does it impact the experience of the mediation when there are only students present? What are some of the potential drawbacks to not having any adults present in a Peer Mediation?

3. What are some of the components of the opening statement that a peer mediator reads to the disputants? Why do you think that it is important that the opening statement read by the peer mediator is scripted?

4. Part of successful Peer Mediation is that the discussion that takes place remains confidential. Is there a circumstance in which you think it would be important to break that confidentiality agreement? What would that be? Why would breaking confidentiality be necessary? How would you explain your reasons to the peer mediators?

5. Peer Mediation trainer Garfield Smith tells us that at the end of Peer Mediation the disputants might not love each other, but they will respect each other. Who is someone in your life that you respect, but do not necessarily love or always agree with? What makes you respect that person even if he or she is not your favorite?
