

# Restorative Practices

## Restorative Circles

### Reflection Sheet: Educator

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

- 1. Why do you think it is a necessary step for teachers to experience Restorative Circles before leading Restorative Circles with their own classes?

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- 2. One of the leaders, Hanaa Arafat, says that Restorative Circles build community by giving everyone an "equal voice." What are the specific practices that give the participants equal voice? How do those practices build community? How does this practice speak to your own classroom community?

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- 3. One of the other leaders, Javier Francisco Diaz, speaks of the power of "supportive and empathetic listening" and how the discussions in Restorative Circles capture "every single and essential detail." How would these practices help your classroom community? How might they support your general teaching practices?

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- 4. Elizabeth Min-Lan Yung says, "It's not just the students that need the skills; many of the adults need the skills." What are "the skills"? Why do teachers need "the skills"?

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- 5. Javier creates a metaphor of a butterfly to close the video. Discuss how this image conveys the essence of Restorative Circles. Use examples from the video as well as your own classroom experience.

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### Action Plan: Educator

Consider the following to begin the process of creating a restorative process in your own classroom.

- 1. Think about the Five Key Elements of Restorative Circles and think about how to implement them in a simple way in your classroom:
  - **The Talking Piece:** Consider finding an object that could serve as a talking piece in your own classroom. What would it be? Why? Consider how you might introduce the concept to your students.

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- **The Center Piece:** What objects could be used to create a center piece? Why is a center piece important?

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- **The Opening Ceremony:** What resources do you have to find appropriate opening ceremony rituals?

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- **The Closing Ceremony:** Why is this part important? Compare/contrast closing ceremonies to how you use reflection in your teaching.

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- **The Community Agreement:** How will you help your students understand the importance of agreement of the community?

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