

Restorative Practices

Restorative Circles

Student Reflection: High School

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

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

- 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?

- 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.” Explain the meaning of his words and support your answer using examples from the video and your own experiences.

- 4. Elizabeth Min-Lan Yung says, “The talking piece is the vehicle for democracy in the circle.” What does this mean? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- 5. Maria Polanco, one of the students in the video, says, “Definitely the skills that are learned in the Circles are the skills you use.” Define the skills learned in Circles and describe how they can be put to use in your classroom life, your home life, and in your community.
