

Restorative Practices

Restorative Circles

Student Reflection: Middle 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. This film shows teachers learning how to lead Restorative Circles with their classes by experiencing the process. How would it make you feel if your teacher were to do this — OR, if your teacher HAS done this, how does it affect the way you think about that teacher? Be specific.

- 2. One of the leaders, Hanaa Arafat, says, "Listening is more important than sharing." Explain what this means. Has this been your experience? Explain your answer.

- 3. One of the other leaders, Javier Francisco Diaz, speaks of the power of "supportive and empathetic listening." What is supportive listening? What is empathetic listening? How are they similar? How do they differ? Why are they powerful?

- 4. Have you ever used a "Talking Piece" or a "Center Piece" in your class? If so, how does it work? If not, would you like to? Why or why not?

- 5. Elizabeth Min-Lan Yung, another leader, says that using community agreements in Restorative Circles helps the people in the Circles feel safe and respected. What are community agreements? How do Restorative Circles make people feel safe and respected? Give examples from the video and your own experiences to support your answer.
