

Restorative Justice



Activities to help you reflect on
character, behavior, and
repairing harm

What is restorative justice?

Restorative justice focuses on accountability and making amends for wrongdoing—rather than on punishments such as detention, suspension, or expulsion. The goal of restorative justice is to acknowledge the harm caused by your actions and to make a plan to repair this harm.

Restorative justice helps you reflect on your actions, why you made the choices you made, and how you can do better in the future.

Examples of restorative justice

Instead of being given detention or suspension, these students were given tasks to help them reflect on their actions and repair any damage their actions caused.

- ▶ **Jay and Thomas got into a physical fight between classes.**
They were asked to develop a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of using words rather than violence to solve problems.
- ▶ **Corinne spread a rumor about a classmate online.**
After hearing from her classmate how these rumors made her feel, Corinne was tasked with gathering statistics about the harm cyberbullying causes.
- ▶ **Marcus used markers to write graffiti on the restroom wall.**
Marcus was required to apologize to the school custodian and spend ten hours cleaning desks and walls.

Think about it.

Think about a time someone did something wrong, harmful, or hurtful to you—or about something you have witnessed. What happened?

How did this situation make you feel?

What might restorative justice have looked like in this instance?

What happened?

The first step in making amends for your wrongdoing is to explore 1) what happened; 2) what caused it to happen; and 3) the impact your actions had on others.

Describe what happened from your point of view.

How and why did this happen?

How were you affected by what happened?

Who was affected by your actions?

What harm did your actions cause?

Moving forward...

Restorative justice is about recognizing your wrongdoing and making a plan to repair any damage you may have caused.

What can you do to repair the harm you caused?

It's important that you learn from this experience and make an effort to do better moving forward. What has this experience taught you?



***"We do not learn from experience.
We learn from reflecting on experience."***

John Dewey