

Restorative Chat between Peers - Middle and High School

Finding time for a Restorative Chat (Person A starts the process)

Person A: Invite the peer to talk. *Hey, can we find a few minutes to talk privately?*

Person A and B: Find a time that works for both A and B. *Can you talk at lunch?*

Getting Started

Person A: Set the tone. *Something has been bothering me so I really appreciate you taking the time to talk with me.*

Person A and B: Agree on the ground rules. *Can we agree to both listen and talk?*

Sharing and Hearing concerns

Person A: State your concern: I feel _____ because _____.

Person B: Restate Person A's concern. *I heard you say that you feel _____ because _____.*

Person B: State your concern. *I feel _____ because _____.*

Person A: Restate Person B's concern. *I heard you say that you feel _____ because _____.*

Uncovering Needs/Motivations/Reasons

Person A: Share your thinking or needs, or an explanation. *I need _____. At the time I was thinking _____.*

Person B: Share your thinking or needs, or an explanation. *I need _____. At the time I was thinking _____.*

Taking Responsibility

Person A: Take responsibility and/or move forward. *I can take responsibility for _____. Next time I will _____.*

Person B: Take responsibility and/or move forward. *I can take responsibility for _____. Next time I will _____.*

Repairing the Relationship and Reaching an Agreement

Person A and B: Show appreciation. Thank you.

And/Or

Person A and/or B: Offer an apology. *I am sorry.*

And/Or

Person A and B: Shake hands.

Person A and B: *So we agree to _____ and _____ from now on?*

Scenario #1:

Jesse enters class five minutes late.

Lou starts yelling, "Teacher, Jesse is late again. Make sure you mark him for being late."

Lou continues to talking loudly, "Jesse is always late. He just waltzes into the classroom like nobody else is here."

Lou gets up and waltzes around the class. "But, I'm here. And I wasn't late."

Another student jumps up and gives Lou a high five.

Lou continues "I bet a 100 bucks that Jesse is late again tomorrow."

Lou looks at Jesse and says, "I am going to win this bet! Ha! You are always late!"

Sample Restorative Conversation:

Person A is Jesse. Person B is Lou.

Getting Started

In the hallway, Jesse goes up to Lou.

Jesse: Lou can I talk to you real quick?

Something is bothering me.

Lou: Sure. What's up?

Jesse: Can we both agree to talk and listen?

Lou: Sure:

Sharing and Hearing Concerns

Jesse: I felt really angry when you announced to the class that I was late this morning.

Lou: Okay. You felt angry when I made a big deal about you being angry.

Lou: I felt annoyed because the teacher had just started the lesson but we had to stop when you walked in.

Jesse: Okay. I heard you say that you were annoyed when the teacher stopped this morning.

Uncovering Needs/Motivations/Reasons

Jesse: I need you to stop making a big deal when I show up late. I am late because my mom works before school and I have to wait for her to come and pick me up after her shift and then she brings me to school. When I am late I just want to find my seat quickly and quietly so I don't interrupt anything.

Lou: This morning, I was thinking about all the homework I am going to have. I like to finish my homework in class, if the teacher gives us time to work on it.

Taking Responsibility

Jesse: I can take responsibility for being late. I can also do what I can to make it to class on time so you don't get annoyed.

Lou: I can take responsibility for delaying the class even longer and for making you feel angry.

Repairing the Relationship/Reaching an Agreement

Jesse: So I agree to try and get to class on time and you agree to not making a big deal about it?

Lou: Agreed

Jesse: Thank you.

Lou: You're welcome.

Scenario # 2

A couple of weeks ago your dad went to Costco and bought a huge pack of soda waters. Ever since then, you have been bringing a soda water to drink at lunch. Last week, your friend, AJ, took a sip out of it without asking. You said nothing, but thought it was gross. You didn't drink anymore of it. Yesterday, you got up to throw away some trash. When you weren't looking, AJ took the soda water and hid it somewhere. You laughed along with the other kids and tried to find it. You didn't have any luck, but you also didn't make a big deal about it.

Right after you sit down to lunch, AJ asks for a sip of your soda water and you say no. AJ doesn't ask again. You open your soda water and start eating your lunch. Like, always you and your friends are talking and eating.

All of sudden, a friend says, "I wouldn't drink that. It's contaminated with AJ's germs."

You are mad, frustrated, and hurt. Later that day you decide you need to talk to AJ about how his actions are making you feel. You are Person A.

Scenario #3

You are sitting outside with a good friend waiting for class to start. You are talking about how your school and another friend's school are similar and different. All at once, your friend starts saying really mean things about this other friend. Your friend goes on and on. You say nothing. In fact you nod your head in agreement. Afterwards, you feel really bad. Plus, all three of you have plans to hang out on the weekend. You just want to have fun and all get along.

You decide to have a restorative conversation with your peer in order to address the way your conversation made you feel. You are Person A.

Scenario #4

You are playing soccer with a group of friends, just like you do most days after school. It's your turn to be goalie, but you don't really like the position. You like to run. When you are goalie, you get distracted and you start thinking about other things. It feels boring to you.

The other team scores three goals pretty quickly because you aren't really very focused.

One of your friends, who happens to also be your neighbor, yells, "Stop obsessing about your love life! Nobody loves you anyway!"

Another friend yells, "Yeah. Stop wasting your time. You are going to be alone forever!"

Then another friend joins them and says, "Why do you even play with us? You don't even try! That's why you are going to be lonely forever!"

You are surprised by what they are saying. You are hurt. You are angry. You yell, "Shut Up!" And you walk home in a huff.

Once you are home, you cool down. Later that night, you decide to have a restorative conversation with your neighbor. You knock on their door. They answer. You start the conversation.

Scenario #5

You are working on a social studies project with a partner that your teacher assigned. Your best friend walks by and you jump up to talk to them. As you jump up, you knock over your partner's water bottle and water spills all over your partner's writing and ruins it. You stop, look at it, and walk over to your friend..

Your partner gets up and walks away, visibly upset.

The next day your partner sits on the other side of the classroom. You work alone. Your partner doesn't talk to you once during the class.

Decide who is Person A and Who is Person B. Person A finds a time to talk and starts the conversation.