

Restorative Justice (9/2/20)

Mr. Carter - 7th Grade English/Language Arts

* Required

1. First and Last Name: *

2. Date: *

_____ *Example: January 7, 2019*

3. Period Number: *

Mark only one oval per row.

Column 1	
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7-5	<input type="radio"/>
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Five Minute Do Now:

One word answers and sentence fragments will not be accepted. Please write your answers in three complete sentences.

4. Do Now: Write about your favorite childhood toy. *

5 points

Learning Target:

After completing this lesson, I will be able to define restorative justice and having participated in an example activity, will have formed an informed, insightful and thoughtful viewpoint.

Restorative Justice Lesson:

Please read through the following descriptions and instructions. Then, complete the readings and answer the activity questions.

Introduction:

Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behaviour. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders. This can lead to transformation of people, relationships and communities.

Practices and programs reflecting restorative purposes will respond to crime by:

- identifying and taking steps to repair harm,
- involving all stakeholders, and
- transforming the traditional relationship between communities and their governments in responding to crime.

Restorative justice theory and programs have emerged over the past 35 years as an increasingly influential world-wide alternative to criminal justice practice. I want us to consider how restorative justice can be used to deter and prevent crime. Many people who go to prison become repeat offenders. They fall into rut that begins to dictate their activity through habit. Imagine the healing that could take place on the part of the victim and the offender. Each could begin to see each other as people rather than simply a person that was victimized and a person that committed a crime.

Instructions:

1. Read the article about restorative justice:

<https://restorativejustice.org.uk/do-you-need-restorative-justice>

2. Read the second article about the 7th grade activist who was arrested for spray painting the Seattle City Hall.

<https://crosscut.com/2019/08/seattle-police-arrested-7th-grade-climate-activist-what-if-they-didnt>

3. Fill out the form/worksheet while reflecting on the articles presented.

4. After answering all of the questions and proofreading your answers, submit the form (if participating online) or hold onto your work for a drop off at the school at a later date.

Assignment Overview:

Consider the description of restorative justice and the article about the 13-year-old who was arrested. Recall a time when you did something wrong to someone else and answer the questions. Reflect on all of the information presented today and answer question number 6.

Reference Articles:

<https://restorativejustice.org.uk/do-you-need-restorative-justice>

<https://crosscut.com/2019/08/seattle-police-arrested-7th-grade-climate-activist-what-if-they-didnt>

Activity Questions:

One word answers and sentence fragments will not be accepted. Please write your answers in complete sentences and do not be afraid to let your voice be heard.

5. 1) What happened during the incident? * 1 point

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6. 2) What were you thinking about at the time? How did it make you feel? * 1 point

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7. 3) What have your thoughts been since the incident? * 1 point

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8. 4) Who do you think has been affected by your actions? In what way have they/you been affected? * 1 point

9. 5) What do you need to do now to make things right? * 1 point

10. 6) In what ways could a sheet like this be used, not just to question the offender, but also to enact healing in both parties? How could something similar to this have been used in the case of the 13-year-old protester? * 5 points

Five Minute Exit Ticket:

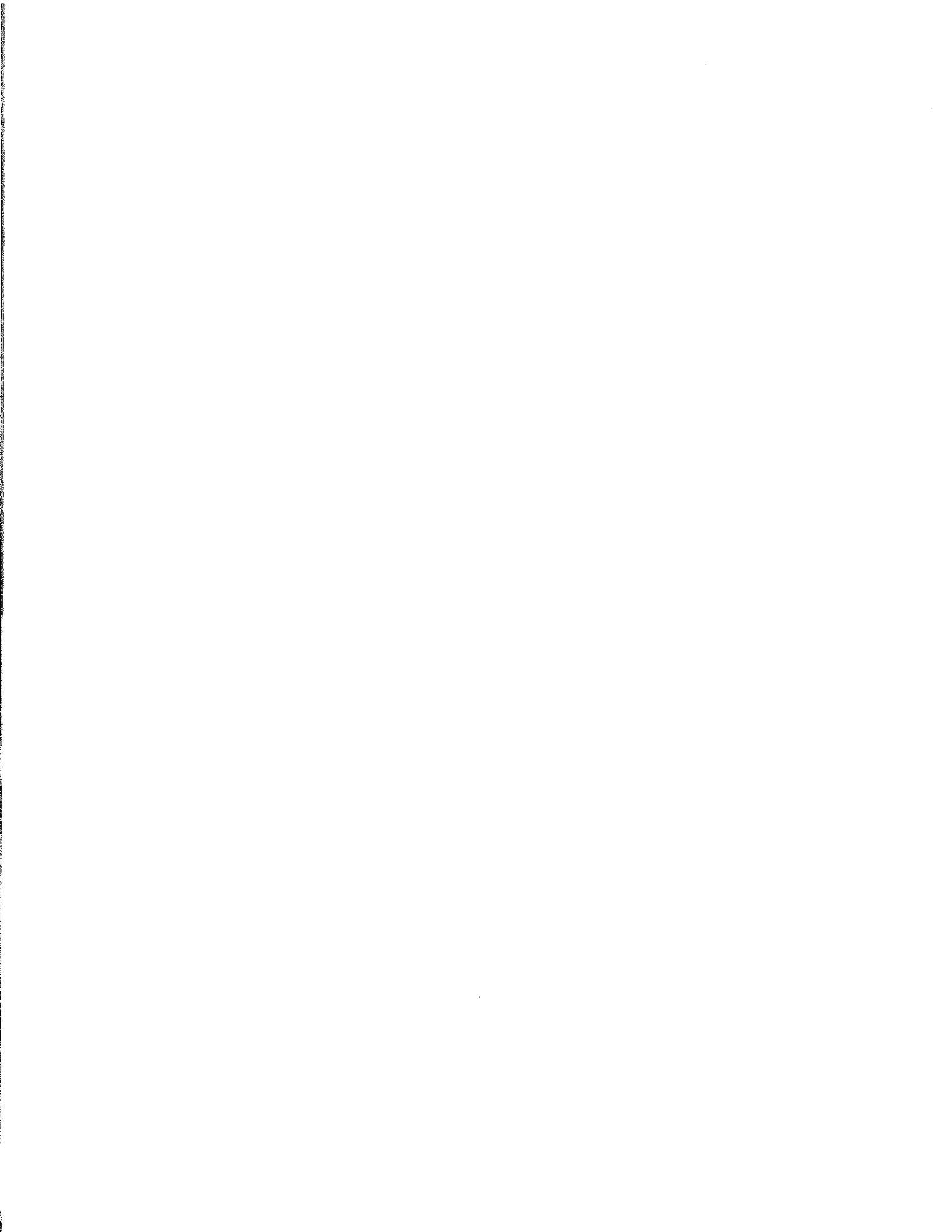
Reflect on today's lesson and answer the question(s) using complete sentences.

11. Exit Ticket: Could restorative justice be a good alternative to prison sentences? In your expert opinion, do you think that restorative justice could have a positive effect on society. *

5 points

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Do you need restorative justice?

If you have been a victim of crime and are considering restorative justice, you are likely to have questions about what it will involve and why it might work for you. The information below will give you the answers you need and help you to make an informed decision about taking part.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is restorative justice?

Restorative justice gives victims the chance to meet or communicate with their offender to explain the real impact of the crime - it empowers victims by giving them a voice. It also holds offenders to account for what they have done and helps them to take responsibility and make amends. Restorative justice often involves a conference, where a victim meets their offender face to face. Sometimes, when a face to face meeting is not the best way forward, the victim and offender will communicate via letters, recorded interviews or video instead.

Why would I take part?

Many victims feel that the criminal justice system does not give them a chance to get involved. Restorative justice puts victims at the heart of the justice process – it gives you a chance to ask the offender any questions that you have and get anything that you want to say about the impact of the crime off your chest. Government research demonstrates that 85% of victims who take part in restorative justice find the process helpful. For many victims meeting the person who has harmed them can be a huge step in moving forward in recovering from the crime. Restorative justice also helps to cut crime - research shows that it reduces reoffending by 14%.

Which offences can restorative justice be used for?

Restorative justice can potentially be used for any type of crime. It can help victims of low level crime and people who have experienced the most serious offences. There are certain offences which can pose particular challenges for the restorative process, for example sexual offences, hate crime and domestic violence. However, restorative justice can still help victims of these offences. It is important that these types of cases are handled by senior practitioners who have relevant skills and experience.

How will I know what to do?

The restorative justice process is led by a facilitator who supports and prepares the people taking part and makes sure that it is safe. They will be able to talk you through the process, answer any questions that you may have and explain what will happen every step of the way. This will be a chance to explore what will work best for you and it is entirely up to you to decide whether to go through with it. You

can drop out at any time.

Some people prefer to attend a restorative justice meeting on their own but others have a friend or family member with them to provide support. This will be discussed with the facilitator and agreed in advance, so that the supporter is fully prepared. Even if you decide not to bring anybody with you, the facilitator would always be there.

Can I stop the process at any time?

Yes. Restorative justice is entirely voluntary and you can pull out at any time, including on the day of a conference or even while the meeting is going on. The facilitator will support you and try to make sure that there are no surprises as you go through the process, but whether you go through with it is entirely up to you.

Is restorative justice safe?

Yes. Facilitators are trained in assessing risks and making sure that the process is safe for everybody involved. They would never let a restorative justice conference go ahead if they were not confident that it could be done safely. You would never be left alone with the offender and the facilitator would support you every step of the way.

When does restorative justice happen?

For any kind of communication to take place, the offender must have admitted to the crime, and both victim and offender must be willing to participate. Restorative justice can be used for any type of crime and at any stage of the criminal justice

system, including alongside a prison sentence. The Restorative Justice Council advocates the use of safe, high quality restorative justice wherever and whenever it is needed. Watch [our film \(http://www.vimeo.com/rjcouncil/victims-guide\)](http://www.vimeo.com/rjcouncil/victims-guide) to find out more.

How can I access restorative justice?

Depending on what is available where you live, you may be able to access restorative justice by asking your victim liaison officer or witness care officer, if you have one. If you live in England or Wales, you will have a local Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who may also be able to help you get in touch with your nearest restorative justice service provider. [Find your local PCC contact \(/pcc-contacts\)](#).

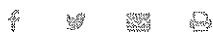
Alternatively, there are a number of services across England and Wales which can help victims access restorative justice. [Find a service in your area \(/service-providers?victims=1\)](#).

How can I hear from other people who have been through restorative justice?

The best way to learn about what restorative justice might be able to offer you is to hear from people who have been through the process. [Read some stories \(/resources?f\[0\]=field_resource_categories%3A31\)](#).

You can find resources for victims [here \(/resources/resources-victims\)](#).

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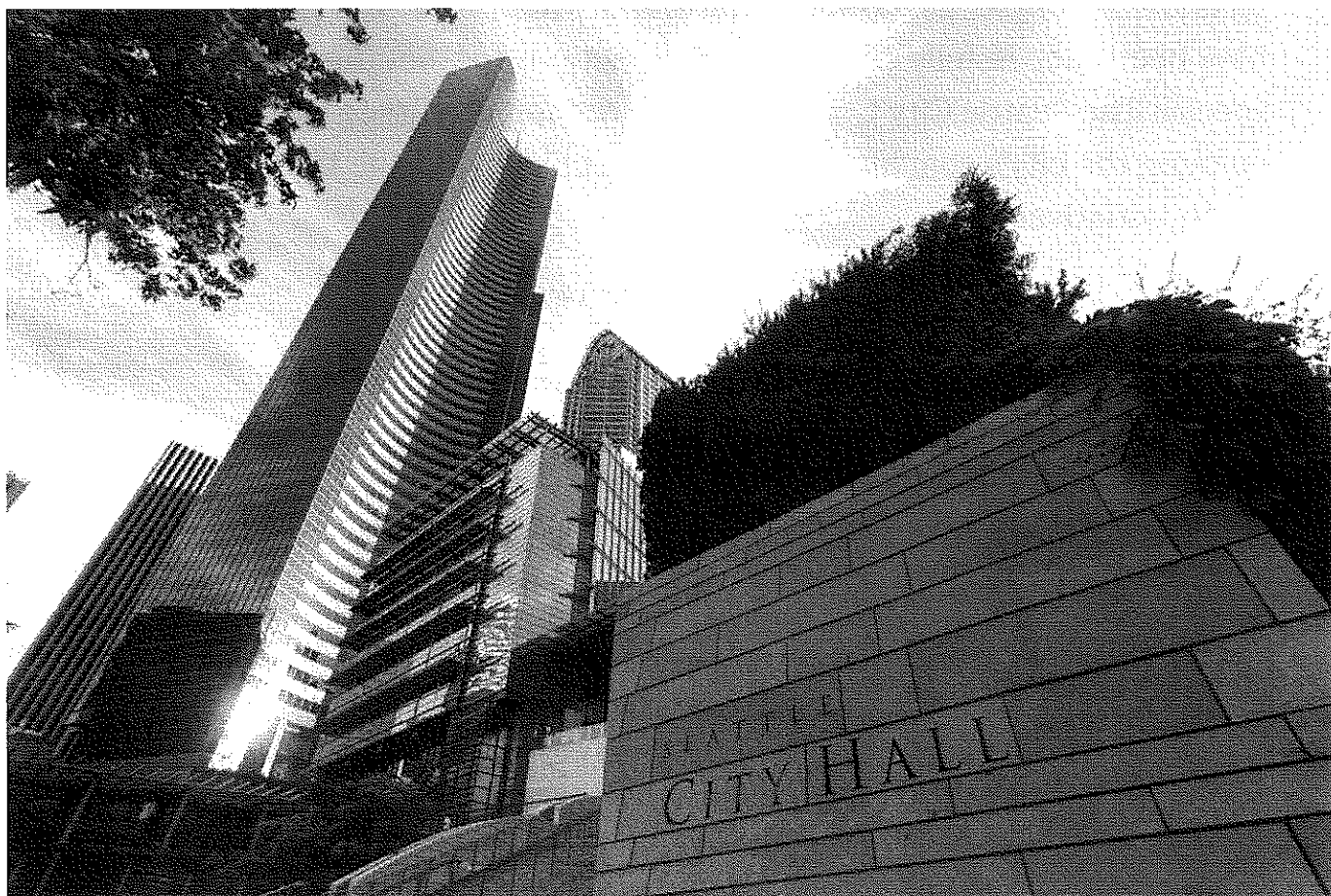


OPINION

Seattle police arrested a 7th grade climate activist. What if they didn't?

Restorative justice emphasizes accountability and healing instead of punishment. All our youth deserve it.

by [Nikkita Oliver](#) / August 16, 2019 / Updated at 1:56 p.m. Aug. 16, 2019



Early morning at Seattle City Hall on June 12, 2019. (Photo by Paul Christian Gordon for Crosscut)

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For many months, youth across the globe, including here in Seattle, have been striking for our future. “Fridays for Future” is a movement started by Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old activist who, beginning in August 2018, sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for three weeks to protest the government's inaction on climate change. Her actions went viral. Youth fighting climate change all over the world joined the movement #FridaysForFuture.

On Aug. 9, youth climate activists gathered at Seattle City Hall to protest the inaction of our city government and to call attention to our global emergency. They have been successfully organizing these actions for months. But last week's was special: The Seattle City Council was addressing the Green New Deal, a resolution marking the city's commitment to fighting climate change through a broad range of green initiatives.

At some point that Friday, another protester present at the action handed a seventh-grade girl a can of what she had been advised was sprayable, washable sidewalk chalk. The youth then wrote “strike for our futures” on a wall outside City Hall. An honest mistake, the spray can, labeled “CHALK,” was actually spray paint intended to create a matte, chalklike finish on surfaces.



Photo courtesy of Seattle Police Department.

Not long after the police arrived responding to an incident of reported vandalism, the youth was attempting to clean up the paint as a crowd explained to SPD the mistake, trying to dissuade them from arresting her. (The young girl confirmed to me that she had looked up on her phone ways to clean the paint, once she realized that's what it was.) The effort proved futile; SPD handcuffed the crying girl and an adult ally, taking the youth to the

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precinct and booking the adult into King County Jail. The girl was eventually released to her parents.

In response to this incident, I posted on Twitter, “Imagine if instead of arresting this little girl the cops had helped her clean it up. Imagine if they had thanked her for her service for protecting the planet. That kind of public service would have actually been transformative and accountable.” As you can imagine, this prompted a lot of conversation! Why would I say such a thing?

Related: [Why has Amazon been so quiet about Seattle's new business tax?](#)

I believe in restorative justice. Restorative justice pursues the restoration of all parties in a situation through accountability and healing engagement. A key part of this approach is accountability – not just on the part of those who caused the most recent harm, but anyone who may have contributed to the events that led to that harm. This often requires whole communities to participate in the remedy and healing process to restore us all back to a trusting relationship with each other. Restorative justice, unlike punitive and retributive justice models, does not view punishment as the preferred method of establishing accountability and encouraging prosocial behavior. In fact, punitive models are often traumatizing and set people up to recidivate, develop resentment and/or experience or cause additional harm.

This particular situation is further complicated by the age of the youth, her intent to use a washable substance – again, an honest mistake – and the fact that these youth activists are bearing the burden of addressing climate change, a dire situation that started long before they were even born, but is impacting their present and may forever alter their future. They are literally fighting for their future lives! And yet many

Recent

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NEWS

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While homicides and suicides in prison get the most press, Washington prisoners are more

governments and people remain mostly unresponsive to this crisis. How is such inaction accountable? What kind of example are we setting?

Accountability means to accept responsibility, and, in a restorative justice context, to do something to set it right. Justice should not dehumanize, harm or set people up for further failure. Rather, it should teach people how to own their mistakes, correct them and move on to do better by their selves and others.

Restorative methods of justice, especially when coupled with prearrest diversion, can limit the traumatic effects of policing, arrest, prosecution and incarceration.

These methods are also more likely to aid community members in developing prosocial behaviors like personal responsibility and community connections, which can prevent youth and adults from entering the criminal legal system in the first place.

We've all heard the saying, "Hurt people hurt people." Conversely, "Loved people love people." Restorative justice aims to heal harm when it has occurred and prevent future harm by ensuring that when accountability is necessary the process leaves everyone, including those who cause harm, better off mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. In order for restorative justice to become a reality, we need to change the way we think about the role of police, law and justice. Restorative justice needs to permeate all we do, from our justice system to our housing policies, schools, budgeting and activism.

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To challenge my logic, someone on Twitter posed a hypothetical: If a 13-year old youth at a MAGA rally spray-painted "Make America Great Again" on Seattle City Hall, should they receive the same restorative justice response? My answer is an emphatic "yes." All

likely to die of untreated or undertreated illness.

by [Levi Pulkkinen](#) / August 4

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youth deserve restorative justice. Not to mention that any youth tagging City Hall with “Make America Great Again” has learned that from “us,” the larger society. We are responsible for the hate rhetoric taking over this country, and just as with climate change, we have the responsibility of challenging the rising tide of hate and hate speech until it recedes. We must do so without further traumatizing and dehumanizing children caught in the wake.

So imagine if instead of arresting this little girl the cops had helped her clean it up. Imagine if they had thanked her for her service for protecting the planet. That kind of public service would have actually been transformative and accountable. That kind of public service would change our public conversation about justice for the betterment of us all.

Correction: An earlier version of this story stated that the seventh-grade girl wrote “Strike for our futures” and another symbol on a wall outside City Hall. The other symbol was made by someone else. The story has been corrected.

TOPICS: [climate](#), [crime](#), [environmental justice](#), [law & justice](#), [seattle & king county](#)

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