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EDUC 253

5 December 2008

Peer Mediation Reflection

Peer mediation appears to be an effective method to allow students to work through their own problems and come up with their own solutions. It teaches conflict resolution skills, anger management skills, and listening skills. While it may not work in all cases, peer mediation will reduce conflicts and empower students to effectively and appropriately solve problems.

Through my education classes at Manchester College, I have really latched on to the ideas of student empowerment and responsibility. As a middle and high school student, I tended to avoid conflict and shy away from it. This did not solve any issues; it just made them dormant. Peer mediation will allow students like me to find their voice through a safe and confidential channel.

While I think peer mediation is a good idea, I think that it also will present many challenges. In order for it to be effective, students will have to be thoroughly trained as mediators. Being a mediator is a very difficult job. It is human tendency to make judgments and offer advice, which are two taboos of peer mediation. In addition to being neutral, student mediators will also have to strictly follow the confidentiality rules, however tempting they may be to break.

The last major obstacle I foresee with peer mediation is gaining student trust and a willingness to participate in the process. I understand that a student must agree to the mediation before it can occur. If a student is not open to hearing the other person's point of view, no progress can be made.

