

Perks of Peer Mediation

Feelings, not fists. Mediation motivates students to talk things out, rather than fight things out.



Collaboration. Students brainstorm their own solutions in peer mediation, so each agreement reached is tailored to each student's needs

Empowerment. Mediation not only shows students how to resolve their own conflicts, but also provides a forum for issues that might never have come to the attention of adults in the first place.

Self-esteem boost. The peer mediation process enables students to take charge of their own lives and leaves them feeling successful rather than diminished. At the end of the day, everyone wants to be *heard*.

Prevention. Developing conflict resolution skills in mediators and students enables them to resolve more of their own conflicts before they escalate. Even after something has erupted, mediation can help to ensure that the problem doesn't happen again.

Better school climate. Mediation decreases tension that comes from unresolved and escalating conflicts and improves communication among students. It can also open up avenues of communication between students, teachers, and administrators.