

# HEALING FUTURES

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"This moment humanity is going through can now be seen as a portal and as a hole. The decision to fall into the hole or go through the portal is up to you." - Anonymous; Education Ecologies Collective

## Field Site

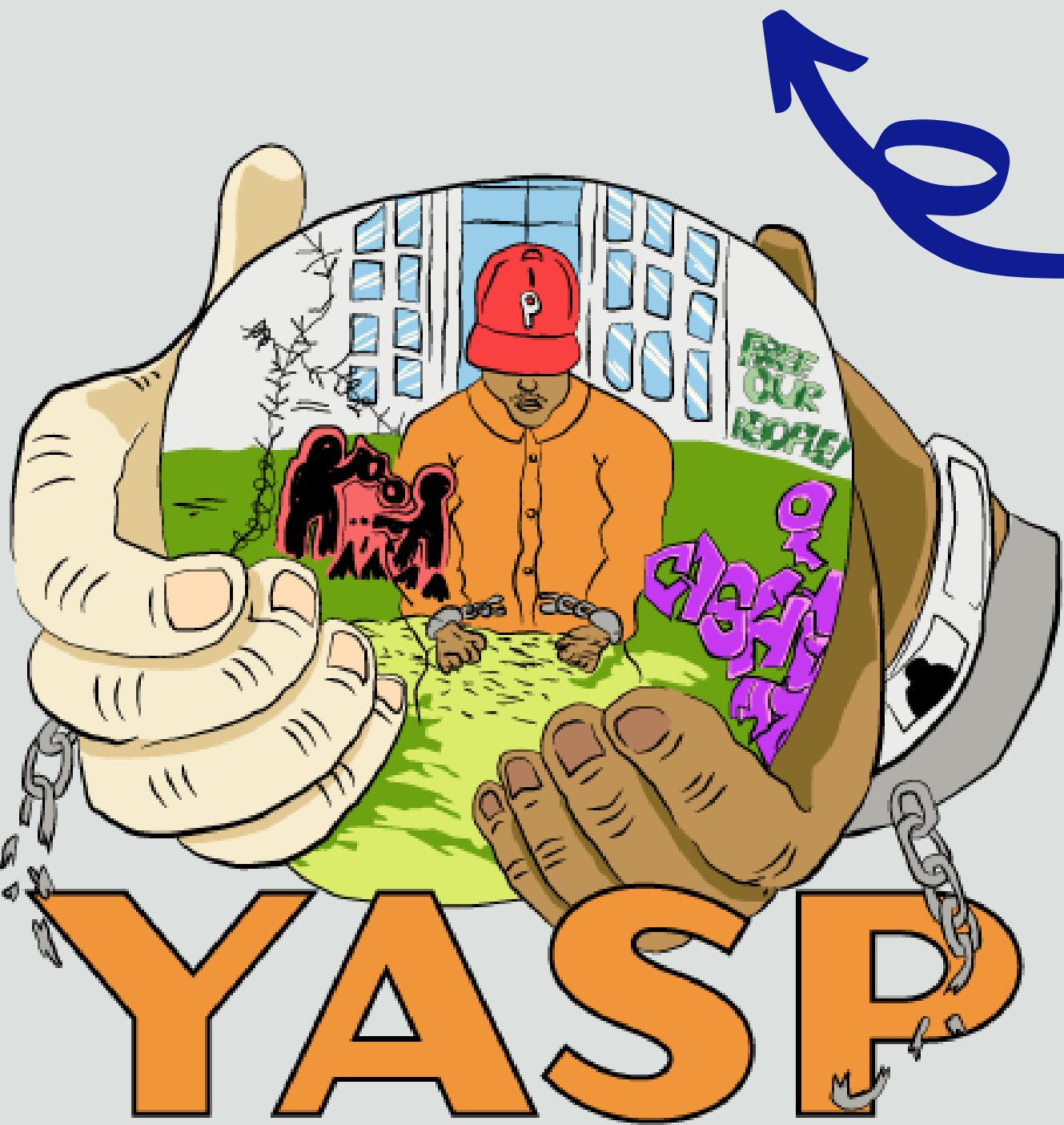
This semester, I co-created a Praxis Independent Study course to continue working with and participating in a youth restorative justice diversion program called Healing Futures with the Youth Art & Self-Empowerment Project (YASP).

## What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice focuses on the needs and obligations that were the result of a harm caused and supports the responsible person in repairing the damage to the best of their ability.

## My Takeaways

The adherence to systems that perpetuate historic inequalities has polluted the "soil" that is society. It acts as a barrier to the growth and development of marginalized youth, or "seeds," thus affecting the growth of the community or "ecosystem." This soil of injustice may contain pollutants such as discrimination, poverty, and limited access to resources. Just as seeds need fertile soil to grow, children and adolescents need access to resources such as quality education and healthcare, as well as a supportive community and family, to thrive.

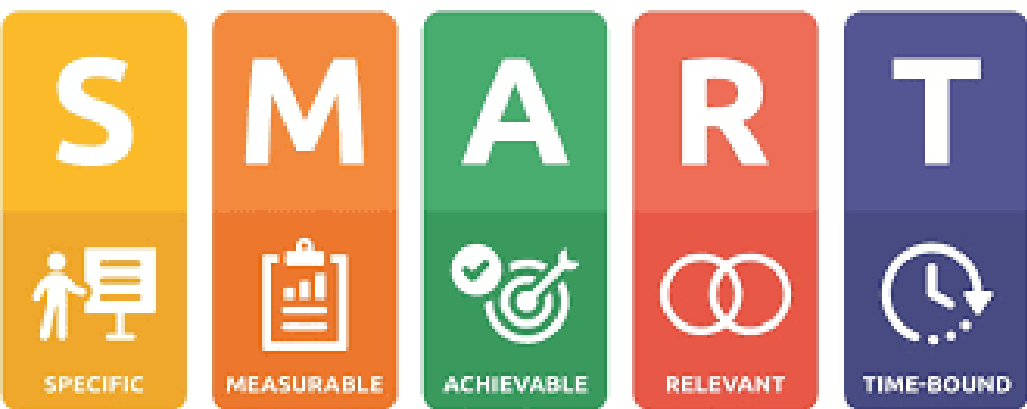


## Objectives & Themes

- Community outreach and program facilitation
- Reimagining systems of accountability
- Deepen understanding of legal processes and acquire insight into the role of diversion programs creating avenues for justice in an unjust system
- Review the costs/benefits associated with the program structure.

## Discoveries & Development

- The inefficiency of the DA's office and system in general pollute the process and falsely represent diversion programs.
- I facilitated Restorative Community Conferences utilizing the Circle Process. Ask me about it!



- Structured framework for rehabilitation and positive change
- Tailored to individual needs and circumstances
- Empowers individuals to take responsibility for their actions



THEY WON'T, WILL YOU?  
Scan to Support



YASP, partners, and community members gathered outside the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office demanding an end to charging kids as adults.  
#freeouryouth#treatkidsaskids