Looking at the whole picture:

Offenders, Victims, and Community

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Retributive Justice Concerns

- Victims and community focus on:
  - What laws were broken?
  - Who did it?
  - What punishment do they deserve?

Restorative Justice Concerns

- Victims and community focus on:
  - Who has been hurt by crime?
  - What are the needs of the victim(s)?
  - Who is responsible for addressing the needs?

A Victim and Community Centered Approach

- Victim-centered
- Offender-focused
- Community-driven
- Criminal Justice System as safeguard

Restorative Justice: the ideal

"Restorative justice provides opportunities for those most directly affected by a crime (victim, offender, families, and other community members) to be actively involved in the process of addressing harms, needs and obligations. RJ is about offender accountability, victim healing, and community safety, through mediation and dialogue whenever possible."

Accountability as a euphemism for punishment

Accountability = Punishment

- Victim and Offender assume passive roles
- Focus on deficits of the offender
- Empathy is absent
- Little, if any, real victim restitution and/or payback to the community

Here is what accountability is supposed to mean (according to me)

- Offender understands harm done (empathy)
- Risk is managed in the short-term
- There is a response to all offender behavior (good and bad) – we are accountable as well!
- Victim and offender participate actively
- Focus on strengths of the offender and commonalities between the offender, victim, and community
- Restitution is viewed as restoration – not punishment

Focus on Victim and Community

- Pay attention to victim and community harm
- Victim-centered correctional programming should be the norm
- Offender always reminded and accountable for harm done

Focus on Victims and Community

- **Involve victims and community in the process of articulating the "end game."**
- **Do not involve victims and community in selection of best practices for winning the "end game."**
- **Articulate links between strategies and the "end game" for all involved.**

Some ways to involve victims and community

- Victim Offender Mediation
  - Victim and offender
  - Multi-party

- Restorative Group Conferencing
  - Family Group Conferencing
  - Community Conferencing

- Circles of Support
  - Peacemaking circles
  - Talking circles

Some ways to get the offender involved

- Restitution
- Community Service
- Circle of Support
- Victim Impact Statement
- Letters of Apology

Involvement of Crime Victims

- Victim Members on Advisory Committees
- Victim Members on Special Task Forces
- Victim Awareness Staff Training
- Victim Awareness Training for Offenders
- Victim Panels/Dialogue with Offenders
- Caution: “Blue Ribbon Panels” and Parole Boards

Fixing Broken Windows

- An often misunderstood concept.
- Not mutually exclusive to “what works.”
- Pays attention to prevention and restoration

Community Focus (Fixing Broken Windows)

- Helping at-risk individuals with “no CJ status.”
- Providing services to community at-large (affirming the message):
  - Tax program
  - Pre-natal care
  - Literacy programs
  - Flood assistance
  - Christmas gift program

Community Focus (Fixing Broken Windows)

- Commitment to be in and of the community
- Restore parks and recreation
- Develop commerce
- Do things we normally would not envision as our job!