

Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

"Choices"

Introductions (5 minutes)

Have the workshop mediator introduce him- or herself, give information about the Living Words program, then introduce the guest writer.

Icebreakers (20 minutes)

The guest writer should ask the participants to discuss important decisions they've had to make in their lives, and how they felt about making them. They might talk about the impact of these decisions, and how they feel about them in retrospect.

Writer introduces the topic (3-4 minutes)

The guest writer should then introduce the writing topic by asking the participants to choose a good decision they have made, and a mistake they made that they learned from. They can then write about one or both of those topics. They should describe the circumstances of the decision/mistake, the impact of it, how they felt at the time, etc.

**Can be made into a persuasive essay exercise—the participants can explain why their decision was good, or why the mistake was worth making for the learning experience.*

Writing (10 minutes)

Have the writer go around the room, asking each individual about his or her writing, offering encouragement and guidance.

Sharing (15-20 minutes)

The guest writer should begin the sharing period by asking, "Who would like to share something they've written?" Feedback should be positive, and conversation between participants in response to a reading is encouraged.

Thanks/ Goodbye (1-2 minutes)

Have the mediator thank the participants and guest writer, and encourage the participants to return the next week.