

Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

"A Child's View of Adulthood"

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)

As an icebreaker, the guest writer may start with a funny anecdote about wanting to be a “grownup” as a child (perhaps dressing up in adult clothes, wanting to learn to drive, etc.) He or she can ask the participants if they had similar experiences, and what they looked forward to about growing up. Discussing these stories with others will help stir memories and give the participants ideas for the writing topic.

Writer introduces the topic (3-4 minutes)

The guest writer should then introduce the writing topic by asking the participants what they, as children, thought adulthood was like. They might discuss hopes and fears they had about growing up, and how those feelings were resolved. Perhaps some things they looked forward to weren't as exciting as they thought, or things they were afraid of weren't nearly as stressful. Perhaps they discovered things about growing up that they had never imagined as a child.

Writing (10 minutes)

Have the writer give the participants individual attention, helping and encouraging them as they write. The writing time should end as some participants begin to put down their pens, so that the first to finish do not get bored.

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.