

Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

"A Memory of the Fourth of July"

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, have the guest writer ask the participants about things they associate with the 4th of July (fireworks, ice cream, independence, flags, etc.) He or she can ask where they've seen these things, or memories about these elements.

Writer introduces the topic (3-4 minutes)

Have the guest writer begin by talking about how he or she has celebrated the 4th of July in the past (maybe a story about being afraid of fireworks as a child, etc.). Then he or she can introduce the writing topic—a memory of the 4th of July. Encourage the participants to use lots of sensory details in their writing.

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.