

Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

"An Important Meeting"

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 think of someone they've met who has had a big impact on their life (a spouse, mentor, employer, best friend, etc.), then to talk about the qualities they admire in that person, and how that person impacted them.

Writer introduces the topic (3-4 minutes)

The guest writer should then introduce the writing topic by asking the participants to remember and describe the moment they met that important person in their lives. The writer should ask the participants to consider the circumstances under which they met, what they thought of the person (and how that may have changed later), and how they felt (nervous, surprised, excited, etc.).

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.