

## Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

### "Everyone's an Expert on Something"

#### Introductions (5 minutes)

Have the workshop mediator introduce the writer. The writer should tell participants a little bit about himself and his interests. Have him give some light-hearted commentary on himself. Our writer gave light-hearted commentary on diet, food he misses, and food he just can't get enough of which led into the icebreaker. Depending on what commentary your writer chooses to use, you might adjust the icebreaker to fit it accordingly!

#### Icebreakers (5-10 minutes)

For the icebreaker, participants went around the room and discussed what food they just can't get enough of. For some, it was peanut butter, for others it was coffee. We all have something we just can't get enough of!

Also, we all have something that we're good at, which related to the theme of the writing session.

#### Writer introduces the topic (3-4 minutes)

The writer introduced the theme of the session by paraphrasing Will Rogers and saying, "We're all ignorant but only on different subjects. On the same note, all of us are an expert in a bunch of things, so instead of discounting our knowledge, let's think about something we're good at."

Maybe you're great at Jeopardy; maybe you're a good listener or just a good person in general! For this prompt, there was no right or wrong answer. Have your mediator write the prompt on the board for the participants to refer to. It should read: **"Everyone is an expert on something. What are you good at?"**

#### Writing: Part 1- Writing a list of things he or she is good at (5-10 minutes)

Have the mediator invite the participants to open their notebooks and write a list of things they are (or were at one time) good at. The directions are simple; just jot down some ideas—a list—of things to be expanded upon later.

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### Sharing (10 minutes)

Participants should share some of the things they feel they are good at. Responses might range from being a good parent to being good wood refinisher.

### Part 2- Picking one response from the list and writing a story about it (5 minutes)

For the second part of the writing exercise, have your writer invite participants to pick one of the things they have written about and write a story about it. Have the mediator tell the participants that “a story informs and entertains”. That way, participants are invited to show how they are good at something but also entertain the audience with a story.

### Sharing Part II (5-10 minutes)

Participants should write their stories and be invited to share them as well as revisit them throughout the week or expand upon them in their own time.

### Thanks/ Goodbye (1-2 minutes)

Have the moderator thank everyone, including the guest writer, and also tell participants what to expect for the next session..