

Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

"Switching Perspectives"

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 begin by giving a funny example of a mild conflict he or she has had with a friend, and explaining how it was resolved. He or she should then ask the participants how they have dealt with frustration with others. Do they walk away from it, or talk it out? Do they look for a compromise, or try to win over the other person?

Writer introduces the topic (3-4 minutes)

The guest writer should then introduce the writing topic by asking the participants to think of a person with whom they've been frustrated in the past. It could be a friend, sibling, parent, or coworker, etc. They should write a description of this person, including both what they admire in the person, and the frustrating qualities. Then, they should write a description of themselves, from the perspective of the other person.

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.