

## Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

### "Teaching Others"

#### 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 an important skill that someone taught them when they were young. This gives them the opportunity to talk about the person who taught them, how they used this skill, and perhaps obstacles and successes they encountered during the learning process.

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

Have the guest writer introduce the writing topic by noting the importance of learning new skills as well as teaching them to others, and asking the participants about a time they taught a skill to someone else, perhaps to a child, coworker, or colleague. They might discuss whom they taught, when and under what circumstances, what the skill was, and how the person later used (or continues to use) that skill. They might also include advice or instructions about the skill, so that the reader learns from it as well.

#### 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.