

Write a Play, Monologue, or Poem

This activity is meant to get residents interested in creative writing and sharing their stories. This activity can have two variations: a play/monologue or poetry.

For a play, have residents write about a defining moment in their lives. This could be when they faced great adversity, or a moment of great joy, accomplishment, or grief. Or have a resident interview another and write a play to tell that story. These can be simple, One-Act plays with limited actors and simple props or monologues where they simply tell their story. Encourage residents to utilize resources and connections they have to make costumes, props, and parts of sets.

For the poetry version, again ask residents to write about a defining moment in their lives. This time, they will write about it in a poem. These can be any type of poem. Refer to the links below to learn more information. Once their poems are ready, ask residents to verbally share their poems with other participants.

If residents are not interested in performing, these can be written out and displayed in a common area on the property.



Instructions:

1. Gather interest from residents and give them one of the prompts listed below.
2. Create a timeline and performance date with participants.
3. Assist as needed with securing a space in the residence (if needed), flyer creation, spreading the word about performance, etc. This will be primarily driven by the participating residents and only periodic check-ins and assistance should be necessary.

Physical Distancing Adaptations:

1. The play can be performed with all actors remaining 6 feet apart. All audience members can sit 6 feet apart as well. The play could be performed outside given appropriate space and weather.
2. Participating residents can coordinate and rehearse via technology if available.

Prompts:

1. Write about a defining moment in your life. What happened? What change did it create in you? What do you want others to understand about this moment in your life?
2. Write about a favorite childhood memory. Was it a family vacation? Time spent with a childhood friend? An unexpected day off from school?
3. Write about your family. What was the dynamic between you and your parents, grandparents, or siblings? What were some family traditions handed down to you? What traditions did you not carry on and why?

References:

<https://bookriot.com/2018/05/08/different-types-of-poems/>