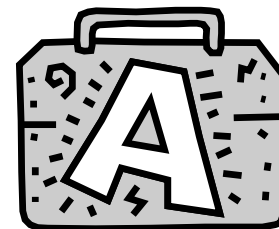


ACTIVITY:

The ABC's of Me



FOCUS:

Building creative communication skills

PURPOSE:

To have the participants create their own alphabetical autobiographies

MATERIALS:

- Newsprint
- Marker
- Masking tape
- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Dictionaries or thesauruses
- "What I Learned" self-evaluation form (on pg. 8; one per person)

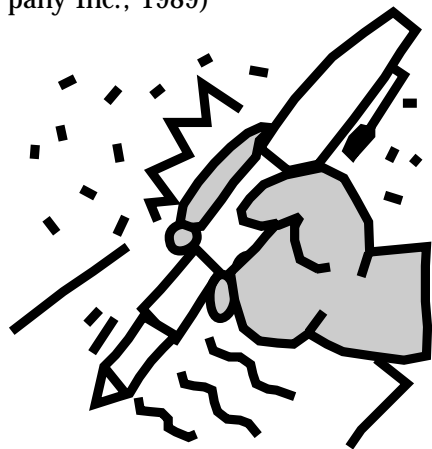
SETTING:

A large space with writing surfaces

TIME:

30–40 minutes

Adapted from *Recipes for Writing: Motivation, Skills and Activities*, by Murray Suid and Wanda Lincoln (Addison-Wesley Publishing Company Inc., 1989)



PROCEDURE:

Before the meeting:

Write a sample ABC autobiography on a sheet of newsprint and display it so that everyone can see it.

As my mother lay in labor at the hospital, she thought that she would surely love an ice cream cone. **B**rother Bobby was wondering, he told me once, whether he would finally get a male playmate or whether I would be born a girl he would have to keep all his buddies away from. **C**assie I was dubbed and protector he became...

During the meeting:

1. Tell the group they're going to write "The ABC's of Me," an autobiography composed in 26 sentences. The first sentence starts with a word beginning with the letter "A," the second sentence with a word beginning with the letter "B" and so on through the end of the alphabet. Read the sample ABC autobiography that you wrote on the newsprint to the group.
2. Tell the participants that proper names and titles are acceptable and that they can use a dictionary or thesaurus if they are stuck.
3. Pass out paper and pens or pencils.
4. Give the group about 20 minutes to work on their autobiographies. When they're done, have the participants take turns reading their autobiographies to the group.

TRY THIS, TOO:

Have the group write:

- ABC stories about their project areas.
- ABC biographies about a friend or family member.
- ABC adaptations of published stories or fairy tales.
- Autobiographies using the letters of their first name to start sentences. For example:

Justice

Just a little bit into August, I was born.

Under the astrological sign of Leo, that vivacious lion.

Soon my parents named me "Justice," because they saw great potential for me as a police officer or lawyer.

Thus I spent my life developing the tools of peacekeeper and negotiator.

In fact, as a youngster I often found amicable resolution to the squabbles of my playmates.

College helped me hone my choices, much to my parents dismay.

Ever since I left the place, it's a most artistic life I've led.