CONVERSATIONS

april 2018

SPOKEN WORD ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

MANUAL FOR YOUTH WORKERS

Slam

10 YOUTH WORKERS
7 COUNTRIES

This brochure is for you, if you:

- work with young people
- are interested in spoken word as a method to empower young people
- aim to develop yourself as a spoken word poet.

Here you can find a collection of activities developed by the 22 youth workers that took part in conVERSations training course organized by Education Studio.

RONJA NATALIE FELICITAS KERN, GERMANY

Learning objective

Express creativity

Activity description

Ask the participants to select random nouns, verbs and adjectives. Make a list.

Out of this list select 10 words and let the participants write a short story with them.

Time to write: 7-10 minutes (you decide).

Afterwards share the stories in the group to see the different outcomes.

Resources

Pens and paper

LINDA ULANE, LATVIA

Learning objective

To understand the specifics of slam poetry, and how to differentiate it from other kinds of poetry

Activity description

The group will watch a video of a slam poetry performance (the best option would be if the poet would be speaking to the public, not to the camera). During the viewing, participants will write down specific elements they notice (change of intonation, rhythm, pauses etc.
Afterwards - discussion.
The second part could be choosing one element and write something focusing on this element.

Suggestion - the video should be first shown without the subtitles, otherwise too much attention will go towards reading the text. Afterwards the group can watch it again with subtitles and concentrate more on the text.

Resources

Screen, internet, sound system. Papers and pens.

ANGELOS TZAVELLAS, GREECE

Learning objective

Team Building - Trust sharing

Activity description

Inner self understanding and trust sharing, connecting with others.

Split in pairs, one is the guide, the other the receiver.

The receiver has his/her eyes closed, the other is guiding him/her through his/her energetic movement and then change the roles.

Resources

Laptop, speakers

IVO YONCHEV, BULGARIA

Learning objective

Exercise 1: Using facial expressions for bonding

Exercise 2: Stimulating imagination

Activity description

Exercise 1. Start by standing in a group circle. One person starts the activity by showing (acting) one expression - fear, anger, sadness... Then, the person will pass the impulse to another one and give him the expression that he will have to do.

Exercise 2. The activity starts by standing in a group circle. Each person has to name an object to the person on his right side and an activity to the person on his left side. Everybody has to remember the 2 words they heard. Using these 2 words, each one of the participants has to make a short story about his new invention and what is the purpose of it. In the end, they have to convince the group that their invention deserves to receive their funding.

FILIPA FALCÃO, PORTUGAL

Learning objective

Integrate knowledge about rhythm and poetry

Activity description

Start by explaining the learning objective.

Divide the group into pairs .

Explain the activity and give an example: Basically the activity consists of creating a poem with a rhythm (ex. Clap 3 times while saying 1, 2, 3, then say look at you...).

Give 8 minutes for the participants to work on it.

Let the participants present their outcomes.

Debriefing, explaining how the activity meets the learning objective. You can also ask which part was harder for them, the poem construction or the rhythm.

Evaluate if the participants liked/found useful the activity (ex. Show with your facial expression if you liked it).

ANNA EJME AND PAULINA JĘDRZEJEWSKA, POLAND

Learning objective

To initiate a creative process, develop storytelling skills, team-building, fun

Activity description

Name: "Fortunately, unfortunately" a popular game, available on the internet with variations

One person starts the story with any sentence (it can be the facilitator)

The next person begins her/his sentence with the word "Unfortunately" and adds some more story/action

The following person adds something by beginning the sentence with "Fortunately" and adding a fortunate event. And so on

With odd number of people is the best to play, as then in the second round people get another word (those who started with "Unfortunately" then start with "Fortunately") - participation of a trainer can make it easier (facilitator can skip her/his round).

The game doesn't have a particular ending - the facilitator should finish it whenever he feels it suited the purpose of the activity

LUONG NGOC MINH, GERMANY

Learning objective

Foster team-creativity, overcome writing blockage, storytelling

Activity description

Prepare for each participant a station with a paper to write on. Each paper has written "In the corner stands an unicorn, and…" In ~45 sec everyone writes the story further. After the round everyone moves to the next station and continues the story. About 6 rounds. In the end everyone reads one story out loud.

Resources

Pens and paper

KATERINA ALEKSIOU, GREECE

Learning objective

Introduction to slam poetry : "Baby steps to find our inspiration source"

Activity description

Wondering what is the first thought in the morning. Imagining the life state at the moment.
Realizing the negative feelings if they exist: Express them on paper, Listening to their favorite music - let that be discussed
By the end of this short session the group is expected to be more opened to listen to their calling: to write based on slam poetry structures which we later in another session explain and show through examples

Resources

paper, coloured pens, music

JOSÉPHINE QUÉFELLEC, GERMANY

Learning objective

Having fun with words

Activity description

Create teams made of 3 persons. Each team will throw 2 dices, on 2 occasions. The first one is to set the number of words and the second one for setting the number of letters the words should consist of.

Then, the challenge is to create a sentence which has the correct number of words and letters.

They have 10 minutes to succeed.

Resources

2 dices, paper, pens, time keeper

GALINA KANCHEVA, BULGARIA

Learning objective

To initiate a creative process - creative warm up (for writing and way of thinking in general)

Activity description

The activity is part of creative writing workshops of Loesje Organization - http://loesje.org/

Each participant has a piece of paper and writes a random word on it - after each action people fold and pass the paper to the person next to them. This step is repeated 6 to 10 times.

Choose and circle 3 words from the list (it can be words that they connect with) -> draw a line (to separate this section from the following) and pass on the paper

Write:

a kitchen tool/favourite kitchen tool -> draw a line and pass

a fairy tail/animated/other heroe -> draw a line and pass

an idol (real person well known in the society) -> draw a line and pass

a challenge or a topic -> draw a line and pass

With the paper you have now - Write a letter from the Heroe to the Idol connected with the challenge/topic and containing the kitchen tool and the 3 chosen words.

Sharing the letter - optional

This brouchure is a result of conVERSations international training course.

conVERSations *is a training course organized by Education Studio, aiming to empower youth workers from 7 different countries to use spoken word poetry method as a tool to support the youth in their communities.*

Trainers:
Bas Boettcher
Maria Carbunaru
Agnes-Evelyn Balasz

Participating Countries:

Germany
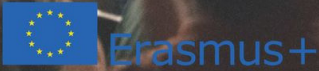*Poland*
Bulgaria
Romania
Greece
Latvia
Portugal

SPOKEN WORD ACTIVITIES COLLECTION

conVERSations

7 countries, 22 participants

Spokenword Poetry is a form of performative art that explores the power of self- expression, the aesthetics of storytelling, word play and rhyming within a dynamic interaction with the audience.