LEADERSHIP INSPIRATIONS

Palindrome Poem

LESSON

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME

Participants will analyze and evaluate major alternative points of view by creating a Palindrome Poem.

MATERIALS

Paper, Writing Utensils, Poster/White Board

AGE ADJUSTMENTS

This lesson is intended for older audiences, but to make it more suitable for younger audiences you can just have them write poetry, it does not have to be a palindrome.

Lesson Plan

Introducing the Lesson

- Ask participants to define a palindrome.
  - If needed, share the following definition → Palindrome (noun): A word, phrase, or sequence that reads the same backward as forward (madam, nurses run)
- Ask participants for examples of palindromes and keep a running list on the poster or whiteboard.

What are some examples of palindromes?

"Here are some examples!
- Civic
- Kayak
- Level
- Madam
- Mom
- Noon
- Racecar
- Rotator
- Top Spot
- Wow
- Don't Nod
- My Gym
- Tenet"

Experiencing the Lesson

- The facilitator should explain a palindrome poem. It is a poem that can be read forward or backward.
- The facilitator will show an example of a palindrome poem by playing this video for participants.
- Give each participant a piece of paper and a writing utensil.
- Give participants 10-20 minutes to create a palindrome poem.

Closing the Lesson

- Ask participants if they would like to share their poem. Assure them it is okay if they do not want to share.
- Ask participants debrief questions:
  - Were you surprised by how easily the example poem was read backward?
  - What were feelings/thoughts that came to mind while you were writing your poem?
  - How does this poem relate to the bigger idea of seeing something from an alternative perspective?

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Further Exploration

- To explore these ideas further, ask participants these questions and lead a conversation around it.
  - Why is it important that we are able to see things from a different perspective?
  - What are real-life examples where seeing things from another perspective could be helpful?
- Utilize a comination of pair sharing, large group discussion and small group discussions to allow participants to dive deep into these conversations. Aim to have participants chat with more than one person.

Get Creative

- For an added collaborative challenge, participants can do this activity in pairs!
- The facilitator can give participants a subject to write the poem on. If there is a holiday coming up, a world event going on, or school event, this can be inspiration for the poem. Otherwise participants and their partner can come up with the subject themselves.

Resources

- Youtube Video (Example Palindrome Poem):
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6EQxZXX7gw
- How to make a Palindrome Poem (tips for facilitator)
  - https://penandthepad.com/make-palindrome-poem-8574569.html

Online

- This lesson translates nicely online, you can continue as directed except that participants will need to get their own paper and writing utensils or type it up on a computer.

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