

Overview

Creative or expressive writing isn't for everyone but it can be very powerful both as an activity and as an evaluation tool.

Process

Poems or narrative could be the result of group work focusing on a specific theme or issue, or it could be personal reflection or even a thank you.

- Multiple poems: Look for common themes using your indicators as a guide.
- Single or one off: What's the story? Does it suggest a change? Again, use your indicators to guide you.

Capturing evidence

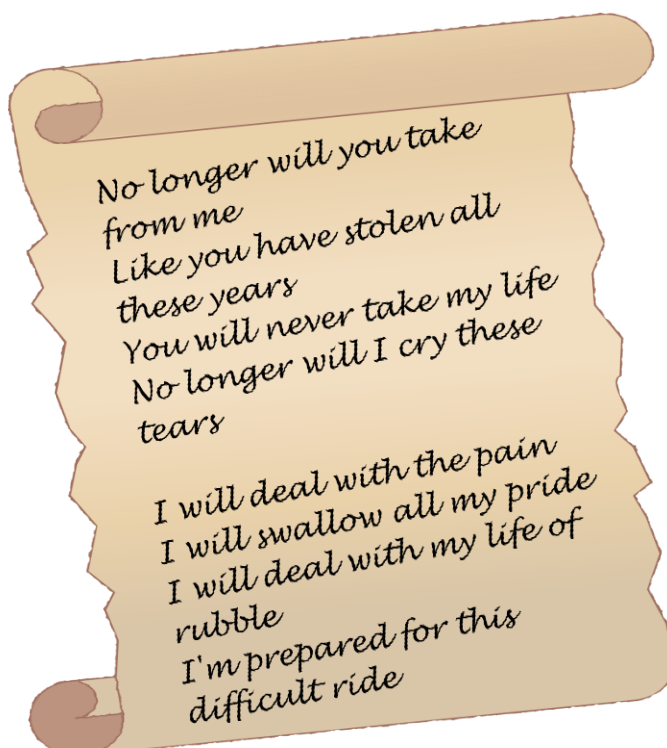
A women's aid organisation had a call out for poems to publish in their newsletter. To their surprise they received nearly 120 contributions. They decided to put them all up as an exhibition. In their report to the funder they included a photo of the poem wall, their analysis of themes and messages within the writing that related to their outcomes, and an example of one of the poems.

Useful for

- Gaining a rich insight into someone's personal experience
- Getting a sense of story or journey
- Both group work and individual reflection
- Breathing creative life into a report
- Serves as a therapeutic activity as well as an evaluation method

Example:

Context: A group of young mothers in a creative group project asked to write about their relationship with drug or alcohol addiction.



Indicators:

- I know that I have a problem
- I know I am responsible for getting better
- I can cope

Outcome:

Young mums recovering from drug and alcohol use will have increased ability to cope with their addiction

Source:

<http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/destined-to-fly>