

# Writing Out Loud

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For the Decoda Literacy  
Conference

May 6, 2022

# Welcome to Writing Out Loud

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- Deborah Morgan
- Mary Kiviste
- Diana Twiss



# Our plan for the next two hours

- Goals for the session:
  - To experience the benefits of writing
  - To experience the WOL approach
- What is Writing Out Loud?
  - the history of WOL
  - how does it work?
- Getting started
  - creating a safe space (group activity)
- Freewriting (in small groups)

# What is Writing Out Loud?

- An approach to writing and literacy development that focuses on personal growth
- Uses freewriting as a way to “write from the heart”
- Participants are encouraged to share their writings, by reading their work aloud

# The history of WOL. . .

Deborah Morgan



# Create a safe space

## Negotiate the “Rules of Engagement”

### Guidelines for working/learning together

1. We are here to support each other
2. We will listen to each other in non-judgmental ways
3. What is said in this room, stays in this room
4. We have the right to pass on any activity
5. Other things?

Get ready with  
pen and  
journals

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# Freewriting from *Fearless Writing*

- Make sure you are in a comfortable position
- On a blank sheet, write the date at the top
- Time your writing - we recommend 5 minutes for starters
- If you can't think of anything to write, just write "I can't think of anything to write"
- Put grammar and spelling concerns aside
- Share writing by reading aloud to each other



# Do warm-up writing exercise

- Write alphabet on each line down the left margin
  - On the count of three, at the word GO, as quickly as you can write a word that corresponds with the letter
  - When you complete, shout DONE
- 
- Separate into small groups

# Debrief from writing groups

# Hate 50-50 Love

- 1- Didn't like the first week.
- 2- today I learned I carry alot of pain inside myself. I carry alot of hate towards people in or outside my life.
- 3- felt good looking back at the good memories in my life, made me miss my family but I know I'll see them again one day.
- 4- having more fun in writing group and I know its good for me and I've always struggled with it. so its getting ~~me~~ better.
- 5- Today's group was fun enjoying it way more then I thought, helps me to open up as well because I always thought I sounded dumb but I'm ~~going~~ gaining confidence.
- 6- I ended up really enjoying this group and my attitude really got better ~~and~~ as weeks went on, Thank you Mary. I've changed my mind on writing.

Hate

50-50



Love

# What's next?

- Recognize the value of writing
- Do more writing as an individual
- Find ways to incorporate writing in literacy programming
- Start a writing group
- Stay in contact – Facebook group contact Maureen Kehler ([mkeehler@decoda.ca](mailto:mkeehler@decoda.ca))
- Stay in touch with us:
  - [mkiviste@telus.net](mailto:mkiviste@telus.net)
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