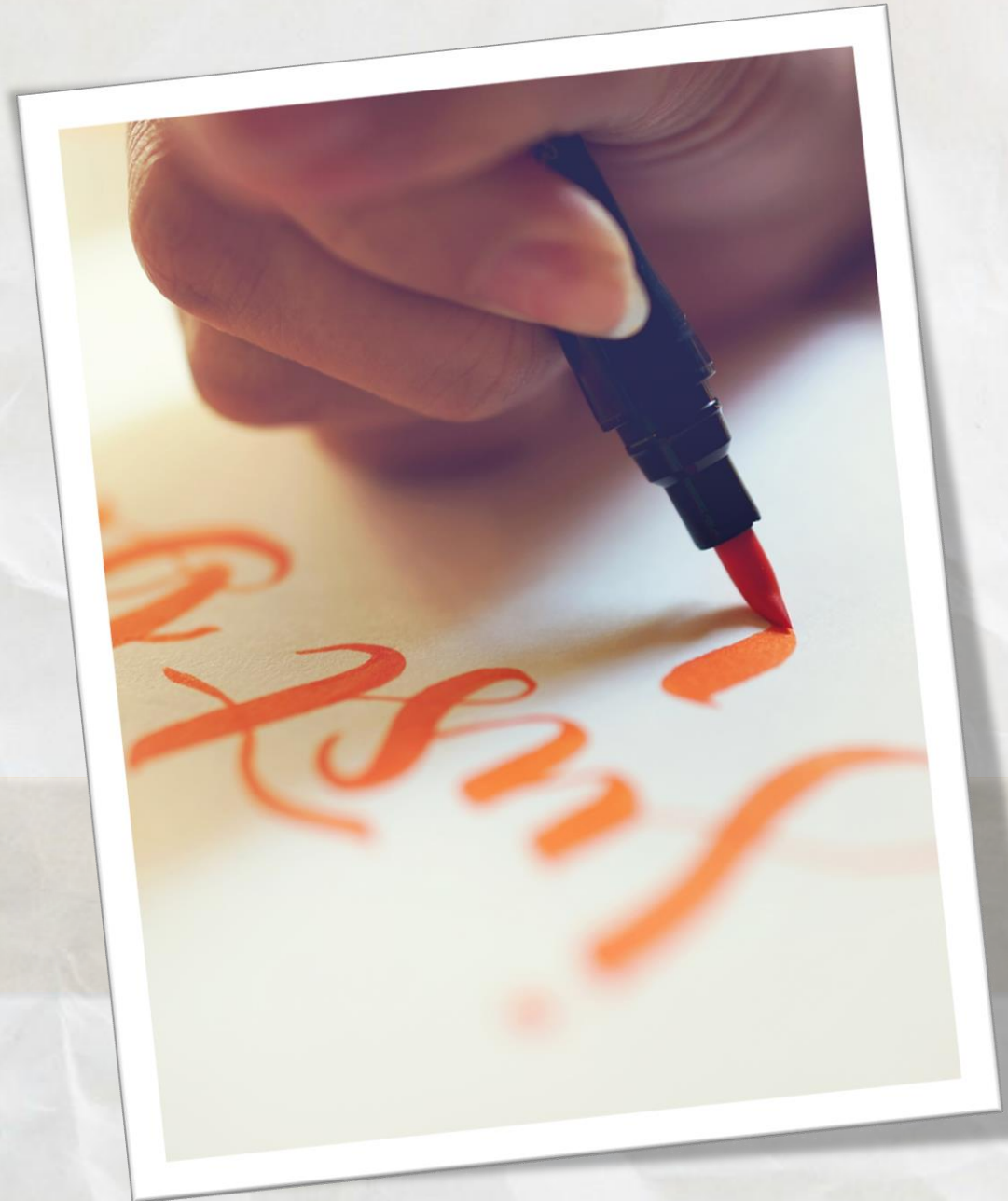


WRITING ON CHANGE

WRITE-SHOP FOR VOICE
GRANTEE PARTNERS

MARCH 2024



ACTIVITY 1. ON STORIES

Go into groups of three people and take turns to share:

What is a story that impressed you? This story can be work or non-work related.

After the group work, we will share examples and discuss:

What makes some stories so impressive and memorable?



WRITING IS AN IMPORTANT SKILL FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS AND ACTIVISTS



Reflecting and learning



Sharing ideas



Amplifying voices



Healing

Remember: Not only can we ***‘learn to write’*** but we can also ***‘write to learn’***.

ACTIVITY 2. FREEWRITING

Think of one moment from your Voice project that impressed you:

Take a pen and piece of paper and start writing – any words, phrases and sentences that come to your mind.

(This is only for you! No one will read what you write.)



THE ACTION LEARNING CYCLE

The Action Learning Cycle helps to structure creative processes such as writing.

For example, you can get started with writing by using the phrases:

1. **What happened was...**
2. **Our assumptions were...**
3. **Our learnings were...**
4. **Next time we will...**



QUESTIONING IDEAS (INCLUDING STORIES) WITH THE HEAD, HEART AND FEET PRINCIPLE

The Head, Heart and Feet principle helps to question ideas and stories.

For example, you can question an idea (including stories) by asking:

- I. HEAD – Does the story make logical sense? Is it creative?**
- II. HEART – Is the story inspiring? Are its people visible?**
- III. FEET – Can readers connect the story with the writer’s energy, commitment and integrity?**



HEAD

A STORY’S LOGICAL ARGUMENT

HEART

A STORY’S EMOTIONAL APPEAL

FEET

ENERGY, COMMITMENT AND INTEGRITY BEHIND A STORY

FIVE SHIFTS TOWARDS HOPE-BASED COMMUNICATION

1. SHIFT

Talk more about solutions, less about problems.

2. SHIFT

Highlight more what we stand for, less what we oppose.

3. SHIFT

Create more opportunities, less threats.

4. SHIFT

Emphasise support for heroes rather than pity for victims.

5. SHIFT

Show that "we got this"!

USING FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE OUR STORIES

When giving feedback...

Be specific: Give feedback based on clear examples, avoiding vague statements.

Be timely: Give feedback close to the event or situation that prompted the feedback.

Be constructive: Give feedback that is actionable, highlighting strengths along with areas for improvement.

Be empathetic: Give feedback that considers the recipient's feelings and perspective.

When receiving feedback...

Ask for clarification: Seek specific examples and suggestions if you are unsure about any aspect of the feedback.

Listen actively: Listen to what the other person is saying, even if it may be difficult to hear.

Reflect: Take time to consider the feedback and how you can use it to enhance your skills or performance.

Express gratitude: Show appreciation, regardless of whether the feedback is positive or constructive criticism.



This presentation was prepared based on the “**Writing for Development Resource Booklet**” and resources of the Barefoot Guide Connection.

Many more tools and exercises are on the Barefoot Guide Connection’s website:
<https://www.barefootguide.org/tools-and-exercises.html>

