



ART BRIDGES: Lesson Plans for Enrichment, Growth and Healing

Word Pictures Ice Breaker

**Used and Adapted by
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Objectives:

1. The participants will share with one another words that have strong personal and emotional connotations.
2. Using quick line drawings, the participants will create and then share drawings that represent these words from their personal perspectives.

Audiences:

This activity can be enjoyed by all age groups.

Supplies/Materials:

- Drawing or blank writing paper (or a personal or art journal if preferred)
- Pencils or pens

Class Instruction:

1. As a group, ask the participants to make a list of personal words that have strong visual or emotional connotations. You may want to get them started thinking with such words as: angry, joyful, peaceful, sad,

- grieving, bored, excited, silly or serious. Additional word prompts you can use:
- A. Descriptive words (elegant, harsh, wiry, frantic, dreamy, weird, turbulent, etc.)
 - B. Action words (tumble, jump, skip, roll, flow, attack, etc.)
 - C. Names of favorite things (kittens, flowers, pizza, mountains, etc.)
 - D. Names of things you fear (snakes, heights, spiders, etc.)
 - E. A feeling or mood (excitement, conflict, passion, rage, etc.)
2. After the group has thrown out a variety of words, ask the participants to write one of the words on their sheet of paper (or in their journal).
 3. Now ask the participants to “write” the word in a new way:
 - A. Tell the participants to close their eyes and move your pencil around the paper, making marks that “feel like” the word.
 - B. Encourage them to swing their arms, stab at the paper or caress the page to describe the word. Here is an example of the word “frantic” drawn using this method:



4. Ask the participants to choose other words and “write word pictures” based upon them.
5. At the conclusion of the time allotted, ask the participants to share their images with one another and discuss their feelings and the process.

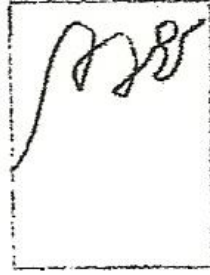
Other Examples of Word Pictures



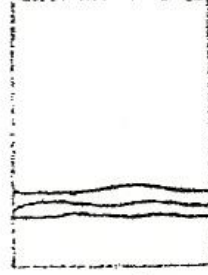
anger



fear



joy



calm



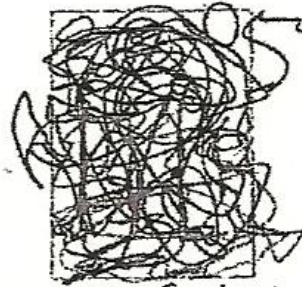
laughter



depression



irritation



confusion

Extensions and Adaptations:

Consider having the participants cut the “word pictures” into squares and create a collage.

Special thanks to **Susan Brasch** for sharing this activity. Susan has created artwork consistently since childhood and her art is owned and displayed in several corporate collections, art museums, art galleries and private collections. Susan is an artist-in-residence in the schools and communities through the Nebraska Arts Council. She is also a professional workshop facilitator in conducting “Trusting Your Process” workshops using symbols and learning styles as keys to self-development, creativity, self-expression and communication. To learn more about Susan and her work, please visit <http://www.susanjbrasch.com> .

If you have used this lesson plan, we’d love to hear from you! Please send questions or comments through our website www.hildegardcenter.org .

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