



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2021.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: Journaling Workshop
Program Category: Customer Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration
Signature: 

Program Overview

Henrico County Public Library's (HCPL) Outreach team partnered with Henrico Prevention Services Connect virtual summer camp program to provide Journaling Workshops aimed at building literacy skills for youth living in subsidized housing communities. The workshops utilized pre-recorded instructional videos, handouts with journaling strategies and prompts, and a virtual discussion through web conferencing software to deliver an engaging educational experience and outreach opportunity in a new virtual learning landscape.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both Henrico County Public Library's (HCPL) Outreach team and the Henrico Prevention Services Connect programs transitioned to virtual formats. HCPL Outreach sought opportunities to continue their work with organizations they normally visited in person to deliver programs and services, such as their existing partner Henrico Prevention Services Connect. The Connect programs were similarly interested in providing engaging learning experiences to maintain students' academic skills with the new virtual learning landscape for the Connect summer camp. The program coordinator for the Richfield Place Connect Program wanted to prevent what is known as the "summer slide," where students can regress in academic progress over the summer, particularly regarding literacy. At the same time, HCPL Outreach staff were considering creating video workshops for their community partners, and had the idea to try a virtual Journaling Workshop. The Journaling Workshop could help address the challenges faced by HCPL Outreach, Richfield Connect, and the youth they serve: to develop and maintain literacy skills for students learning over the summer, continue meeting the library's outreach goals in a virtual format, and provide an engaging virtual learning experience.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This program represented an innovative collaboration between two County departments that encouraged traditional pen-and-paper literacy skills through a virtual class in order to meet a community need at a critical time. Journaling Workshops are a simple and cost-effective way for libraries to provide literacy programming to community partners like after school programs, Senior living communities, and others. Utilizing a mix of web conferencing software or pre-recorded video, these virtual workshops allow libraries to continue outreach in a virtual setting. In addition, the partnership and collaboration between Henrico Prevention Services Connect Program and HCPL Outreach represents an innovative and efficient way to work across departments, break down silos, and share resources. The program helped build equity by providing high-quality literacy activities to prevent the “summer slide” for youth in subsidized housing communities, who may not have access to the same academic support resources as their higher-income peers. The program showed that writing is fun and can serve as an outlet for personal creative expression. Journaling Workshops are low-cost and high-impact, and could be easily replicated by municipalities across the country.

How Program Was Carried Out

Richfield Connect and Henrico County Public Library Outreach had an established partnership before the pandemic struck, and the pandemic provided challenges to maintaining this partnership. The two organizations are well suited to work together. Connect is a prevention program provided by the Prevention Unit at Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services (HAMHDS) that supports young people in low-income and subsidized housing communities. The program serves youth ages 6-18, and emphasizes connecting youth with positive peers, supportive adults, academic support, and employment readiness. Connect fosters relationships between the youth it serves, parents, schools, and the broader community, and

provides educational and cultural enrichment programming, at times in partnership with HCPL. Connect offers a summer camp for youth for eight weeks, five days per week. Twelve participants enrolled in the Richfield Connect program and in addition to instruction were provided breakfast and lunch from the Central Virginia Food Bank. The program coordinator for Richfield Connect was tasked with designing the virtual curriculum, and wanted to dedicate time to engaging virtual programs that could prevent a decline in reading ability and other academic skills that can occur over the summer.

At the same time, HCPL Outreach Staff were meeting weekly to discuss how they might continue delivering programs and services to their partners in a contactless way. Two HCPL staff members had an interest in journaling, and started to plan a pre-recorded video workshop consisting of three sessions to teach journaling, complete with explanations and prompts. They hoped to teach young people that writing is an important literacy skill, and can serve as a fun creative outlet at the same time. The Outreach Coordinator reached out to the program coordinator for Richfield Connect to see if there was interest in such a program, and the two groups began to collaborate to fit Journaling into the summer curriculum. The videos were designed to be reused in other settings. Handouts with supplemental information were created to accompany each session.

Each day of Connect's summer camp had a different theme, and Monday's theme was Literacy: Journaling & Storytelling. Students received donated journals and cool writing utensils before the program to ensure they had the materials needed to participate. Four Monday sessions featured Journaling Workshops with HCPL Outreach. The first three sessions featured a short, pre-recorded video, between 3-5 minutes in length. HCPL Outreach staff scripted and created the videos to emphasize literacy skills and to fit with the planned Connect curriculum. The last session featured two library staff members joining the virtual session to discuss and share creative

journaling techniques with participants. Connect used the skills participants developed in the workshops to continue to incorporate journaling into its curriculum for the remainder of the summer. HCPL Outreach plans to share Journaling workshops with additional Connect programs, and used the videos to host a one-time program with St. Mary's Woods Senior community.

Financing and Staffing

Journaling Workshops were implemented with standard technology and donated materials. The largest cost was staff time required to plan. However, planning programming is a part of the regular duties of the Connect and HCPL Outreach staff. The workshops were held via WebEx and utilized PowerPoint and Windows Media Player. HCPL Outreach used Adobe Premiere to create and edit videos. This software was already owned by HAMHDS/Henrico Prevention Services and HCPL, respectively. Journals, pens, and pencils were donated to students to provide them with supplies. Most libraries and after school programs have access to this or similar software, and this program could easily be replicated even under budget constraints.

Program Results

Journaling Workshops were very well received by Richfield Connect program participants. The students wrote in their journals at least twice per week during the eight-week summer program. Students gained an understanding that writing is an important part of literacy, and they learned techniques to make writing fun and personal, and to use it as a creative outlet. In addition to just writing, students enjoyed enhancing their journals through drawing, lettering, tracing, and collaging, which deepened engagement in the activities. All the students reported that they enjoyed the Journaling sessions.

HCPL Outreach achieved its goal of providing programs and services to highlight literacy in a virtual setting to continue working with its community partners. Staff have also successfully repurposed the workshop once already to host a journaling workshop at the Saint Mary's Woods Senior living community. In the future, Outreach plans to host Journaling Workshops at additional Connect program sites.

Brief Summary

Henrico County Public Library's Outreach department partnered with Henrico Prevention Services Connect virtual summer camp program to provide virtual Journaling Workshops for youth in local subsidized housing communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshops were designed to build literacy skills using pen, paper, and imaginative techniques like collage, to show that writing is fun, and to prevent the "summer slide," in which young people can lose progress in literacy earned over the previous school year when they fall out of practice in the summer months. The workshops blended high and low-tech approaches, utilizing pre-recorded videos, handouts with journaling strategies and prompts, virtual discussions via web conferencing software, and donated supplies of journals and pencils. Planning required intensive interdepartmental cooperation and resource-sharing. The programs have been adapted to be used at Senior living communities that cannot have outside program facilitators teach in-person. The Journaling Workshops provided an engaging learning experience in a virtual environment and were well-received by participants.

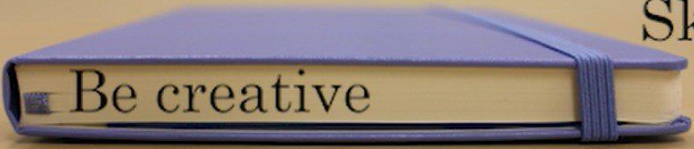
Journaling Workshop Partnership
Supplemental Material

Activity One

Think of a word that
describes how you are
feeling today.

Record your
life and memories
Thoughts and ideas
Be creative
Express yourself

Make lists
Sketch
Dream and Wonder
Doodle



Word bank for creative
journaling challenge

books,

buildings,

bubbles,

birds,

windows,

shadow,

water,



Take the Creative Journaling Challenge

Creates 10 individual word-based journal entries

Step 1. Write the numbers 1–10 on your journal page

Step 2. Choose one word or a short phrase to write next to each number on your page. See the list below for suggestions or make up your own

Step 3. Create a journal entry for each number/word

Word Bank: Books, Buildings, Eyes, Lines, Sun, Handles, Covered, Food, Twisted, Water, Tall, Insects, Spattered, Dry, Handprints, Roads, Bubbles, Stars, Boxes, Journeys, Shadow, Doorways, Birds, Soft, Framed, Rocks, Rainy, Windows, Drawer, Planets, Tiny

Now get creative with your word!

Define your word in writing or with drawings

Write a poem inspired by your word

Use special letters to shape your word

Make thought clusters around your word



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Creative Journaling

Is a blank journal page scary?

Try these ideas to fill your pages!

Be a collector:

- Of advice, sayings, or quotes that you want to remember
- Of titles of the books or movies that you like or want to read
- Of ideas that sound interesting or important
- Of words that are special to you, fun to say, or that you made up

What do you collect? What do you wish you could collect? Write or draw that collection in your journal.

Ways to Journal: Creative Journaling

Creative journaling is a way to explore and collect ideas and to make connections

Where can you...

be curious?

play with ideas?

make mistakes?

try new things?

create something for no reason?

...in your journal, of course!

There are as many ways to journal as there are people who create them.

Be a list maker:

- Of songs that make you want to sing
- Of things that are your favorite color
- Of places you like or want to go

How many different ways can you draw or name the same kind of thing? Make it a list!

Be an observer:

- Of three things you saw, heard, or did in the last week that stand out in your mind as different or new, and then record them in your journal
- Of one thing outdoors, take time to look at it and record it in your journal again and again over time, as seasons change, and time passes
- Of phrases or conversations you overheard

Some ways to be a better observer:

Pay more attention to the things around you than to yourself, notice changes, put away distractions, be a good listener, and use all of your senses