

GIFTS: Great Ideas for Teaching Servant-Leadership

*A project of the Center for Spirituality & Leadership
at Marian University, Wisconsin*

Activity Title: Leadership Cinquain

Group Size: Any Size

Time Needed: 10-20 minutes

Servant-Leadership Attribute addressed:

Active listening

Coaching and mentoring

Community building

Facilitating collaboration

Foresight and vision

Fostering growth

Self awareness

Stimulating creativity

Other (please specify): _____

Objectives / Goals / Purpose of the activity:

To deepen individual awareness and insight into one's personal approach to leadership

Materials Needed:

Copy of handout (Handout follows below)

Directions for the Activity:

1. Distribute copies of the handout to participants
2. Discuss the various approaches to writing a cinquain
3. Discuss the importance of self-awareness in understanding one's own approach to leadership
4. Invite participants to sit quietly and reflect on
 - a. Their personal approach to leadership
 - b. How they understand their growth as leaders
 - c. How they would like to grow as leaders
5. Give participants adequate time to write their cinquain
6. When everyone has completed their poems, invite participants to share their poetry within small groups, or if people are willing with the group as a whole

Questions or Process for Debriefing the Activity:

Depending upon the size of the group, spend time discussing the poetry as presented and what can be learned from the process.

1. What did you learn about yourself that you did not know before?
2. What did you learn about leadership that you did not know before?
3. What did you learn about leadership from others' poems?

Describe when the activity is best utilized:

The reflection is best utilized as individuals begin their study of leadership and personal growth. I have used it successfully in a classroom situation as well as in retreats formats.

Variations and/or Helpful Hints:

If participants are willing, post the poems in the retreat room so that others may re-read them and reflect on others' ideas

Submitted by:

Name: Mary C. Klein, EdD

Organization: Virginia L. Duncan Gilmore Center for Spirituality and Leadership
Marian University

Email Address: mklein@marianuniversity.edu

Telephone: 920-923-7156

Mailing Address: 45 S. National Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Please complete the form and email it to: info@spiritualityandleadership.com

Using a Cinquain to explore Leadership

Cinquain (pronounced "cin-kain") is a five-line poetic form, using a wavelike syllable count of two-four-six-eight-two. The poem has one topic and the details describe the topic's actions and feelings.

Method One

- Line 1 - One word for the topic
- Line 2 - Two words to describes your topic
- Line 3 - Three words that describes the actions relating to your topic
- Line 4 - Four words that describes the feelings relating to your topic
- Line 5 - One word that is another name for your topic

Method Two

- Line 1 - two syllables
- Line 2 - four syllables
- Line 3 - six syllables
- Line 4 - eight syllables
- Line 5 - two syllables

Method Three

- Line 1: One [noun](#) (title)
- Line 2: 2 [adjectives](#) describing title
- Line 3: 3 words ending in -ing
- Line 4: one phrase
- Line 5: one noun that is a [synonym](#) to the title

Method Four

- Line 1: one word (title)
- Line 2: two words
- Line 3: three words
- Line 4: four words
- Line 5: one word

Method Five

- Line 1: two noun syllables (title)
- Line 2: four adjective syllables
- Line 3: 6 verb syllables
- Line 4: 8 syllables
- Line 5: 2 synonym syllables

Writing a poem based on syllables alone uses the same order and amount of syllables as above but whether or not the word is a noun/verb/adjective/synonym does not matter.

Leadership



Leadership
By
Mary C. Klein

Leadership
Transactional, Transformational
Changing, Challenging, Choosing
To bring out the best in everyone I encounter
Servanthood