ZAPORIZKA OBLAST LIVING LIBRARY

Sample Agenda for Living Library

Duration of event: 3 hours (sample time 10.00-13.00)
Format of event: Part I Living Library, Part II Debate/Discussion
Audience: High school or university students (maximum 50 students)

Overview:

The Living Library is a system whereby the books of the library are individuals from different social or ethnic backgrounds, and the readers of the books are high school or university students. The event serves as a tool for starting conversations between people, and in doing so provides an informal setting to ask questions and discuss stereotypes or prejudices. The aim of the library is to demonstrate concretely that we have more in common than we think, and that when it comes to friendship, the color of our skin doesn't matter. The Living Library session is followed by a short guided debate or discussion to give students a chance to review and vocalize perspectives gained through talking with the books.

Methodology:

The Living Library includes: a) two librarians who present the rules of the living library, introduce the books, and manage the reading time and rotation process to ensure readers get ten minutes per book; b) the books, who are people from diverse backgrounds (examples of previous books include a Roma businesswoman, a Jewish youth leader, an elderly Belarusian, a young refugee from Ethiopia, asylum seekers from Iraq and Afghanistan, and an American Peace Corps volunteer); and c) the group of students and teachers who "read" the books.

Following the Living Library, student participants are guided through a short debate or discussion in which a moderator presents a point for consideration, such as "People of different ethnic backgrounds living in Ukraine are Ukrainians".

Sample Agenda:

10:00-10:15: Introduction of event, living library concept and introduction of "books"
10:15-11:45: Living Library
11.45-12:00: Break
12:00-12:45: Debate/Discussion
12.45-13.00: Closing statement and post event questionnaire