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***Mosaico feminista
Tejiendo conocimiento a través de las
culturas
Feminist Mosaic
Weaving Knowledge Across Cultures***

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(Coordinadora)***



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Appendix C

A structure for processing current events
Collective freewriting
Written by Sarah Ropp, Ph.D.

WHAT IT IS

Collective Freewriting is an activity from Professor of Sociology Dr. Gloria González-López designed to help participants **identify** and **express** their ideas and emotions in response to major collective events, then **synthesize** those thoughts into a representative community statement.¹

WHY TO DO IT

- Honors individual responses + creates belonging despite conflicts or differences.
- Anonymous-but-public statement integrates all voices + validates a range of responses without demanding excessive vulnerability.
- Low-stakes, unscary creative expression provides psychic relief + aesthetic pleasure.

HOW TO DO IT

- Do this activity right before or after a big event: class, campus, community, or (inter)national.
- Be clear about what it is not (i.e. not an invitation to debate; not an obligatory exercise in intense public vulnerability where people will be coerced into a lot of intimate sharing).
- Allow people to opt out in full or in part. Do not require this activity or attach it to a grade.
- Think about your own responses in advance. Model at each stage.
- Begin and/or end the activity with a wellness exercise (e.g. 1 minute of triangle breathing).

PART 1: Freewrite thoughts and feelings

- Open a digital file (e.g. Google docs).
- For a designated amount of time (e.g. 3 min; 5 min; 10 min), freewrite in response to a prompt. "Freewriting" means unstructured, free-flowing stream of consciousness: don't worry about punctuation, spelling, or format.
- Prompt can be targeted ("How are you feeling about yesterday's election results?") or more indirect ("What anxieties are you carrying? How do they manifest in your body?").

PART 2: Create a public statement

- Submit your freewrite to a central repository (e.g. email to the facilitator or copy-paste to a communal document). You can submit in whole or in part, anonymously or not.
- Select 1-2 lines from each participant's freewrite and organize them into a paragraph or poem. A facilitator or assistant can choose lines, or participants can each submit the lines they wish to include. The facilitator should order them (randomly or purposefully).

PART 3: Dialogue

- Frame the statement as a collection of voices + perspectives: not the unified, singular voice of the group but rather a pluralistic representation of the group's complexity. Emphasize that it is okay if there is no discernible coherence or consonance, but encourage them to find points of resonance with and between the language chosen as well as the ideas and feelings expressed.
- Read the collective statement/poem out loud.
- Discuss: How did this process feel? What was challenging and what was rewarding about it? What are your responses to our statement/poem? What are lines that you find particularly beautiful, intriguing, or resonant (even if you don't fully understand what they mean)? What opportunities for care (for others or yourself) or other forms of action do these lines inspire you to consider?

Notes

1. Dr. Sarah Ropp prepared this document in 2023 as the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Paideia Dialogue Director at the University of Pennsylvania. In the original version, Dr. Ropp generously wrote: "With gratitude to Dr. Gloria González-López, University of Texas at Austin."

