

Riverton Memoirs Case Overview



The River County Library serves the town of Riverton, Kentucky, a town of 3800 on the Ohio River, across from Indiana. Library patrons requested a creative writing project and the Library Director confirmed the need by publishing locally an article requesting feedback from potential participants.

Library patrons wanted a writing program for adults, an organized “group” meeting regularly to produce some genre of writing, with feedback from others as to how to grow as a writer, and, most importantly, the organizational of a

facilitator.

In response to advertising for the project by Library Director Gerry Bard, twenty-one adults started out in the program. Rod Blackmur, an instructor at a Louisville Community College, facilitated the group and arranged for the publication of selections by all continuing participants.



Profiles of Stakeholders

These are fictional statements typifying attitudes and illustrating needs, not actual direct quotations.



Director

“People kept asking for a writing group. They didn’t really care what kind of writing, so long as there was a regular meeting and someone to lead the group. I knew about the grant money available through the state and then I heard about an instructor who had the writing of his students published. That seemed like such a great idea. Everything just came together.”

Participant

“I’m glad they’re holding the meetings at night so that working folks can take part as well as housewives and retirees. I would’ve

signed up for any creative writing course, but now I can write down some of my memories for my family. And if we get to read them for the whole town, I guess I’m not that shy.”

Coffee Shop Owner

“This coffee shop is a regular meeting place for the town anyway. Might as well make a party out of it and hope to sell some coffee, too. Besides, they’ll be Published Authors! It should be fun.”



Logic Model Worksheet

I. Situation: program partners and stakeholders	
What is the program's name ?	River County Library "Filling in the Dash: Autobiographical Writing" project Riverton Memoirs
What partners are involved?	
Who are the program's stakeholders ? (Be sure to include yourself, your target audience, partners, funders and any other stakeholders.)	What does each stakeholder want to know?
Adult Library Patrons who want a Writing Group	Who will the leader be? How will my writing be critiqued and published?
Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives	Who will benefit from the grant funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)? Is the grant project needed? Is the applicant capable of carrying out the grant? Is the proposal well thought out?
Library Board of Trustees	Is this project likely to serve an important segment of the library's patrons? If successful, can it be sustained? Does the project fulfill the library's mission?
II. Program planning: connecting needs, solutions, and results	
Who are the audiences ?	The target population expected will be adults of middle age or older, but younger adults who are interested will not be excluded.
What are the needs of the audience?	Library patrons have requested a writing program for adults, in Riverton, a town of 3800 in River County, Kentucky, on the Ohio River, across from Indiana. Articles in local papers produced 10 questionnaires showing the desire for such a program. Identified needs include: an organized "group" that meets regularly to produce some genre of writing, feedback from others as to how to grow as a writer, and, most importantly, a facilitator.

<p>What are some audience considerations?</p>	<p>The Library has already established successful adult programs such as “Wednesdays @ one,” a monthly program for “those with available time” (primarily retirees), and the Fourth Monday Book Group. In order to encourage attendance by a range of adults, the program meeting time is scheduled for early evening, 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p>
<p>What solution fulfills the needs?</p>	<p>The writing group (10-20 adults) will meet twice monthly for two hours each month, for a year (a minimum of 20 times), with a regular facilitator, to write autobiographical pieces. Members will read from a set list of autobiographical or biographical writings by authors, meet authors from the list, bring drafts of their writing to be shared with the group to each session (with some in-session writing), and participate in critiques.</p> <p>Each participant will have a number of completed pieces (written, critiqued, revised), with up to five completed pieces to be published in a small book at the end of the project.</p> <p>Group members will give a reading from their works for the community at the end of the year.</p>
<p>What will be the desired results?</p>	<p>Participants improve their writing.</p> <p>Participants feel themselves to be part of a community of writers.</p>

II. Logic model summary: program purpose statement

<p>We do what?</p>	<p>The River County Library will offer a creative writing project focusing on autobiographical pieces in bi monthly classes, guided by a facilitator.</p>
<p>For whom?</p>	<p>Adults in River County</p>

For what outcome /benefit(s)?	Participants show improvement in their writing and demonstrate they feel part of a community of writers.
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III. Program elements

Inputs	Outputs (or counts)
Director contributes time for promotion, quarterly reports, coordination of project and book ordering.	2 hrs./week
Library contributes Circulation Manager's time for project bookkeeping.	1 hr./week
Library contributes cataloger's time to process books ordered by the project.	1 hr./week
Facilitator to organize activities at bi-monthly meetings and arrange for publication of group's work	
Activities	Outputs (or counts)
Publicize group and recruit participants	
Hire Rod Blackmur as facilitator (see resume)	
Order copies of each book to be discussed (with grant funds); also available new and used at reduced prices.	5-10 copies of each book
Contract with Kentucky authors being read to visit and share their writing process/technique (grant funds)	3 Kentucky authors
Keep records of participation and administer questionnaires	
Schedule and promote public reading of selections from group	
Edit and arrange publication of selected pieces from group members	
Services	Outputs (or counts)
Meetings from October through September with a facilitator and visits by 3 Kentucky authors studied.	Bi-monthly 2 hour meetings (with a minimum of 20 meetings)
Kentucky authors of biography or autobiography discuss writing techniques and style with group	3 Kentucky authors

Peer-to-peer review and support	Number of participants (total or average)
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V. Outcomes

Outcome 1: Participants show improvement in their writing.				
Indicator(s)	Applied to	Data Source	Data Interval	Target
The number and percentage of participants who revise five pieces, commenting on what they tried to improve in each revision. AND	Project Participants	Writers' portfolios of participants work	End of project	90%
The number and percentage of participants whose revised pieces (two before-and-after versions) are judged better than the originals in a blind (no writer or dates given) holistic grading by a creative writing specialist. AND	Project Participants	Expert evaluation of participants' work	After 8 months	85%

<p>The number and percentage of participants whose revised pieces is judged better than the originals (for two sets) by a creative writing specialist when judged by the writer's goals in the revision.</p>	<p>Project Participants</p>	<p>Expert evaluation of participants' work</p>	<p>After 8 months</p>	<p>95%</p>
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Outcome 2: *Participants demonstrate they feel themselves to be part of a community of writers.*

Indicator(s)	Applied to	Data Source	Data Interval	Target
<p><i># and % of participants who can name three ways they feel a part of the community of writers.</i> OR</p>	<p>Project Participants</p>	<p>Post-group questionnaire</p>	<p>End of group</p>	<p>80%</p>

# and % of participants who act as part of a community of writers after the project (produce writing, continue library group or join another, attend readings, read memoirs, read regularly about authors' concerns)	Project Participants	Post-group questionnaire	3 months after end of project	60%
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