

ACTIVITY #1

WRITING A NEW WAY

Materials Needed:

- paper, 2 pieces per student
- crayons, pens or pencils
- It's Hard Not To Stare

Instructions:

- "Fold your paper in half."
- "Print your name on the left side of the paper." (For older students, have them write a sentence about themselves as well.)
- One at a time, have students show the group what they have printed. Ask another student to read what they have written.
- "Now, put the pencil in your other hand and print your name." (For older students have them print a different sentence than the first time.)
- Collect all of the papers and fold them over so you can just see the 2nd attempt. Hold them up one at a time for others to read.
- Reveal the first side to the group. Compare and discuss.

Discussion Starters:

- Which way was harder to print, harder to read?
- How did you feel about printing with your other hand?
- What reaction did your friends have to your 2nd attempt?
- How did the reaction of your friends make you feel?
- Which way of printing took more effort?
- How much do you print everyday? Brainstorm the ways that you print in school each day. What would it be like to print all day with your other hand?
- What would it be like if you could never use your correct hand to print again?

Conclusion:

- Turn to page ____ in "It's Hard Not To Stare"
- Ask the students to explain this picture.

Additional Related Activities:

- Choose one or two students to paint with brush in mouth. Ensure that the activity is controlled and done respectfully.
- Show a video clip of a mouth painter
- Print off work done by mouth painters and other artists. Discuss each piece of artwork. Can they tell the difference?