SELF-LEARNING ACTIVITY 1 - THE INVERTED STORY

OBJECTIVES

Construct a narrative in reverse, starting with the ending and moving to the beginning, with the goal of detecting the connecting elements of the story more plainly and to work on suspense despite having already revealed the outcome.

TIME REQUIRED

10-15 minutes.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE

Individual.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A piece of paper and a pen (or an IT device to write).

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tell a story that is no more than 2 minutes long from the end to the beginning.

2. Allow 5 minutes to think about it and 5 more minutes to write it.

3. The story must hold the reader's interest and attention, even if the outcome has been revealed from the beginning.

SELF-EVALUATION AND REFLECTION GUIDE

The exercise tests the ability to create stories and use mechanisms to generate them. On a more specific level, it involves:
- The creation of stories starting from their resolution, to exercise the ability to detect and work on the moment of conclusion of the stories.
- The development of the stories' plot twists and the coherence and cohesion between the parts.

- The hyper-progression of suspense and the inclusion of surprises in the story.

EXAMPLE:

He died of smoke inhalation [WE ARE INTRODUCING THE OUTCOME FIRST]. *He was in pursuit of a suspected high-end car thief - the ringleader of the most dangerous mafia in Europe within his grasp. That Tuesday, July 1st, in broad daylight and 38 degree weather, Antoni watched as the suspect plotted something at the town gas station. He could become famous if he caught the thief. Very famous. No wonder he was so nervous. He lit a cigarette as he watched, quite unluckily for him also lighting the FFP2 mask he was wearing on fire. Three hours later, the plainclothes police officer, having failed to catch the mob boss, died of smoke inhalation.*

This same story in reverse could be introduced with a rhetorical question before saying that he died. "Do you want to know how he died?" or "What happened to the most feared character in history?"

And in the middle of the story, you could incorporate attention-grabbing elements such as: "But wait, because what nobody knows is that ..." or "I have not yet explained to you what happened three hours later ...." and make use of voice, gaze and gesture to create mystery and play with suspense.

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