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PLACE

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# Writers Podium Workshop Report



## 1 INTRODUCTION

On 27th April 2019, Siasa Place, in partnership with Writer's Guild, conducted a three-hour workshop with the aim of improving the Siasa Place Writers Podium Cohort's skills in reading and writing. The workshop registered a positive turn-out with an attendance of eight participants out of the expected ten.

The workshop focused on educating the participants on reading and writing. Beyond this primary objective, the meeting placed an emphasis on fostering open conversation on the crucial role of building a reading culture and its impact on everyday life.

## 2 UNDERSTANDING WRITING *By Gabriel Dinda*

An appreciation of the writing process begins by learning the importance of writing and the correlation that exists between reading and writing. To set off the meeting, Gabriel asks the participants why they thought reading was important and below were the response:

- Reading is the gym for the brain."
- To get new ideas."
- Reading helps to build one's vocabulary and expand the brain set.
- Reading acts as an escape from reality and can also be used to pass time.
- Reading is a portal to one's mind and exposes one to a diverse range of ideas and thought.

The discussions further sought to understand the reasons why people do not read and here were some of the reasons flouted

- Laziness
- Lack of instant benefit and gratification
- Lack of motivation
- Lack of time
- Lack of reading a culture:
- Lack of discipline to read
- There is perception among many that reading is not a priority.
- Fault in the education system that does not cultivate the reading ethic in the minds of students.

Through the discussions, it emerged that the difference between one person and the next is information.

## 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussions recommended the following:

Lack of instant benefits and motivation.

- It is crucial to understand that people can be easily distracted. As such, having an accountability partner can be of immense help in keeping one on track with set goals and objectives.

- Setting milestones, such as finishing a chapter or a book, and celebrating them can be a good point of motivation.
- One can also create a timetable and allocate time for reading.
- Joining a book club helps to motivate one to focus on a systematic pattern of reading which eventually means reading more books in effortless fashion.

### **Lack of Time**

- The issue that came out is that one has to learn to balance time.
- It is an issue of understanding one's values and prioritizing time on what one values and holds dear.
- Gabriel summed this attitude by mentioning that, "If you can find time to eat, then you can find time to read."

The following were also suggested as some of the benefits of reading. They include:

- Facilitate one's thinking.
- Makes one a better human being
- Improve one's level of arguments
- It makes one become better professionals

The meeting also recommended the following as positive reading and writing culture as listed below:

- Association
- Observation: Studying the actions, behaviors, and habits of others
- Repetition
- Developing new habits
- Attending book clubs
- Incorporating incentives

The facilitator explained that the type and nature of books one reads affect the motivation to read. Essentially, the choice to read is defined by the following factors: -

- Relevance
- The incentive to learn from the authors
- Recommendation from book clubs
- Influencers

Sometimes, one may not have a clear understanding of the type of book to read until they take a plunge. It is best to read a book recommended by someone.

## **4 RECOMMENDED SMART TOOLS**

In the digital age, reading has become much easier. There are a number of mobile applications that can be of immense value to someone. They include: -

- **Keep It:** - Helps to store action points as you read
- **Any Books:** - Has a variety of free books that one can read
- **Librivox**
- **Dictionary App:** - A variety of these exist and can help a reader to look up difficult words
- **Brain Focus**

## 5 WAY FORWARD

After considering the challenges shared during the discussion, the meeting recommended the following:

1. Need for one to switch off their phone or keep them away to avoid distraction. It helps one to concentrate on the reading.
2. Participants were challenged to read at least one book of choice between the training day and the next training date.
3. Participants were also challenged to take summary notes that are to be reviewed in the next session.
4. Participants were requested to write the benefits of reading so as to provide the motivation for reading.
5. The next meeting date is scheduled for the 9th August, 2019

For more information, please contact us on:

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