

EXQUISITE CORPSE is a game that was popularized by the surrealists, who used it as a party game, idea generator, & way to cultivate & maintain creative thinking. this exercise is designed to help you think more creatively (divergently) about the practice of history. This worksheet in particular is designed to be completed by coworkers, collaborators, and project partners. By allowing each person to write at least one line, you will see that you are left with a poem that expresses a diversity of perspectives. In reading the full poem, each participant may find that they are given the gift of alternative frameworks through which they may continue their own practice of the history at hand. This is an activity that cultivates an appreciation for reflexivity.

## **HOW TO PLAY**

**RULES** Up to 10 people may play on one sheet. Participant one writes ONE line (above the first printed line) that considers the prompt and follows the structure specified; when done, fold the paper on the printed line, so that your line can no longer be seen but the rest of the page is visible. Follow these directions, switching participants each turn, until the sheet is full.

**PROMPT** Write a line that uses salient words (buzzwords) from your current research, using the structure defined below.

**STRUCTURE** ADJECTIVE, NOUN, VERB, ADJECTIVE, NOUN. (You may add prepositions to link words, but the non-standard use of language this exercise can elicit is a strength, not weakness, of the game.)

**EXAMPLE** Compassionately she taught brave women; Meticulously the artist catalogued beautiful clouds; Loudly magpies cried, running beautifully, home.

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this worksheet is an example of a facilitated exercise from my workshop,

ENGAGE & EMBODY: creative and critical thinking development through poetry and creative expression.

for more information &
to bring the ENGAGE & EMBODY workshop to your organization,
please email Ellen at ellen@ellenarnstein.com
or visit ellenarnstein.com

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