



Making Articles Positive

This writing exercise is an excellent way for groups of people to work together and turn stigmatising articles into positive ones.

A lot of reporting on alcohol and drugs are negative and can sometimes become stigmatising and harmful because of word choice, a lack of support information and positive recovery stories. There are so many positive recovery stories out there and a community of people willing to share them.

This activity should take between 30 minutes to 1 hour depending on the length and number of articles you choose. You will need a copy of a news article, blank paper, and some pens. We have included some articles for you to download in our Making Articles Positive Activity Pack. You can also choose any article you'd like from a newspaper or off the internet.

Making Articles Positive Activity:

- 1) Split off into groups (between 2-3) or you can do this activity individually. Take one or a selection of articles of your choice to discuss together.
- 2) Read through the articles once and highlight anything that sticks out to you such as the headline, images, stigmatising language, positive tones, who is being interviewed, support information, etc.
- 3) Now it's your turn to become the journalist! How would you write this article? On your blank piece of paper, write your own take on the article. Are there things you would keep from the original? What language would you change? Would you go for a completely different approach? Who would you have interviewed? Is there anything in the original article you would cut out?
- 4) After you've finished writing your positive article, switch with someone else in your group. Read through each other's positive articles and take part in a discussion. What did you keep from the original article? What did you decide to rewrite? Did you add anything new? Does someone else in the group have something similar to you?
- 5) Continue your conversations and choose another article to make positive!
- 6) We would love to see your finished positive articles. You can include an image on social media and use the hashtag #RewritingRecovery and tag us on Twitter @ScotFamADrugs and @SRConsortium. You can also send a copy to rebecca@sfad.org.uk and danielle@scottishrecoveryconsortium.org

Insert Standard Stigmatising Image Here...

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Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs – www.sfad.org.uk

Scottish Recovery Consortium – www.scottishrecoveryconsortium.org