

BIOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Imagine you are about to meet someone for the first time. After you tell them your name, people will often ask, "So, what do you do?" A biography is basically that answer but the way that it is described is as though you are someone else talking about you. Generally we try to highlight our best qualities and accomplishments in a biography so for example,

Harold Dougall is an award winning public speaker on the topic of bullying and is a *childhood* survivor of the Huronia Institute in Orillia, Ontario. Dougall is a gifted poet whose work on the topic of surviving institutional violence is being revised for publication in the fall of 2015. Dougall speaks frequently in academic settings about his experiences in and out of Huronia and is an expert on the subject of childhood bullying and why it must stop.

There is nothing in this biography that isn't true. And doesn't Harold sound like someone you want to meet, or book for an event or talk to about your own experiences being bullied to get his advice and perspective? Aren't there so many questions you have about how he found the strength to do what he does? Today we are going to be writing our biographies. They will come in handy when we are preparing to bring our stories out into more public spaces like theatre and radio.

The Template:

Your Name:

Harold Dougall

Some of your accomplishments:

*Champion of pin bowler, certified in behaviour management services,
Competed in the special olympics in swimming, track & field.*

What are you good at?

speaking, making people feel comfortable

What have you done that is exceptional?

*working on behalf of a wheelchair accessible community in Orillia, a
great liaison for people in wheelchair.*

What sets you apart from other people you have met?

Nothing, I'm not a special person. Not ashamed of who I am.

What might you offer to an organization interested in booking a person like you to speak or give

advice?

*expert on bullying in institutions & the workforce. How to be a good ally to
people in wheelchairs*

Harold's personality, gives