

# Spoken Word Prophet: Liberating Your Voice

*Specialty Track 3*

<b>AUTHOR(S):</b>	Caroline Rothstein
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	In this session, participants will learn how to use spoken word poetry and other storytelling and writing techniques to find their voices and consider their roles in liberating others from their own perceived barriers in feeling empowered at both at camp and beyond. - <i>Submitted by Caroline Rothstein</i>
<b>TOPIC(S):</b>	Writing, Storytelling
<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b>	The goal of this session is for participants to explore, consider, and learn how to intentionally use their voices to feel heard and have a revolutionary and revelatory impact in their communities and the world at large. Additionally, participants will learn how to use editing tools as a way to constructively communicate and receive feedback.
<b>AUDIENCE:</b>	Any age range; recommended 20 people maximum.
<b>TIMING:</b>	90 minutes
<b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pens/pencils/writing utensils</li> <li>• Blank paper</li> </ul> Clipboards (if needed)
<b>SET-UP DETAILS:</b>	<p>This session should take space in a location, space, or room where participants can both sit in a circle (on the floor or in chairs), and also have space to spread out if they want some privacy during the writing workshop portion of the session. The writing workshop portion can also be done around tables (i.e. outside at picnic tables, the dining hall, bunk area, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another option is to simulate a setting that mimics being in the desert, and/or in the space of “revelation” at the bottom of Mount Sinai.</li> </ul>

### SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

Welcome participants back and share session two goal and agenda (5 minutes)

Revelation Discussion (10 minutes):

Editing (25 minutes):

Reflection (25 minutes):

Bringing it back to camp (15 minutes):

Closing (10 minutes):

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- Invite participants to find a seat in the circle and each have a writing utensil, paper, and clipboard.
- Begin session.
- Welcome participants back and share session two goal and agenda (5 minutes)
  - o Session goal: To explore revelation as a concept and opportunity.
  - o Session agenda:
    - Introduction
    - Revelation Discussion
    - Editing Workshop
    - Reflection
    - Bringing it back to camp
    - Closing
  - o Note that Group Agreements remain.
  - o Ask participants to share one thing for which they're grateful today.
- Revelation Discussion (10 minutes):
  - o Consider these definitions of "revelation":
    - "A surprising and previously unknown fact, especially one that is made known in a dramatic way."
    - "The divine or supernatural disclosure to humans of something relating to human existence or the world."
  - o Ask participants:
    - How do they relate to the specialty track thus far and the "arc" or "cycle" of liberation? If liberator comes first, liberation comes second, and revelation comes third, what does it mean for it to be the final step in the journey/arc of liberation at large?
    - In the context of Judaism, what is the significance of "revelation"?
  - o Ask participants if they know about Mount Sinai and what happened there.
    - Ask someone to explain their understanding and support everyone in having a collective/group understanding of "revelation" within the Exodus story.
      - NOTE: If it doesn't come up, offer a word about how historically, we talk about all Jewish people being present at Mount Sinai and being present through time and history – and what that means to your connection to Jewish people and camp and identity, and that there are camps and communities who have an understanding of this moment as being inclusive of all people in the world at large so that everyone's souls are understood to be present at Sinai.
- Editing (25 minutes):
  - o Consider that revelation is bearing witness to someone else's liberation.
  - o Find a hevruta partner. With your hevruta partner, share one of the pieces you've written during sessions one, two, or three. Each person listening, will offer feedback in the following way: I like, I notice, I wonder. Every piece of feedback must be framed with either of those opening phrases.
  - o Something to consider/offer: it is as important to be mindful of what's being removed as it is to be mindful of what remains.
  - o Ask participants to revisit their pieces and incorporate the feedback they received. (5 minutes)
  - o Come back together as a group. What did you notice about receiving feedback and editing in that way?
  - o Volunteers share their revised pieces with the group.
- Reflection (25 minutes):
  - o Revisit what you wrote on day one of this specialty track.
  - o Ask yourself again, now:
    - Are you a liberator now and in what spaces do you fulfill this position/role?
    - Make a list.
    - Share one thing on your list with the group.

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- Now, consider: Where does the impact go?
- Make a list.
- Share one thing on your list with the group.
- Revisit what you wrote on day two of this specialty track.
- Liberation to you means something different to everyone, so now consider: what does liberation mean to you?
  - Make a list.
  - Share one thing on your list with the group.
- Now, the reveal:
  - G-d does to Moses what G-d is asking Moses to do for the people – empowering Moses to empower the people – the liberator helps with the liberation, which then makes space for a revelation
    - As staff – you are given the ability and skillset as a liberator to then help with the liberation of your campers (and camp), which makes space for revelation
    - Sometimes we think – I can't do this; but you can – you can do this. That's what this is about.
    - As a counselor, you're modeling for your campers.
    - Empowering campers to feel empowerment so they can teach someone else and then it becomes an infectious way to spread empowerment
  - Ask yourself again (feel free to take notes, or share out loud):
    - What is your role in liberating others?
    - What does it mean for you to practice liberation?
    - What does it mean for you to be a liberator?
    - As a counselor?
- Bringing it back to camp (15 minutes):
  - Group discussion/conversation exploring these questions:
    - How could you see yourself bringing any of the programming from these past three sessions back to camp?
    - What adaptations might you consider applying to make it more usable at your camp?
  - Consider the arc and the flow of liberation:
    - 1: Liberator
    - 2: Liberation
    - 3: Revelation
    - How does this play out at camp?
- Closing (10 minutes):
  - Each participant shares a final thought answering one thing they are feeling, one thing they learned, or one thing they're taking away from this specialty track.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP:

Here are some additional questions and ideas to consider and bring into the program at any point:

- Is it the revolution channel or is language itself the revolution?
- Is it the envelope or the letter?
- Is it essential to the nature of revolution being a person of words? Is that what's being said?
- This arc of liberation – is it a means to the end that is essential to words, or are words a means to the end re: liberation?
- Are words the means and/or ends of liberation? Might not just be the means but might also be revelation itself.
- Liberation is not just about Moses sharing the good word – it's about his evoking behavior and voice from them.
- Liberation is a collective movement – it's not one person's job.