# Develop Your Opening and Closing Remarks

Worksheet RBR009

Beginning and ending your session with remarks can set the tone of resident engagement in a unique way and inspire participants to think differently about both the subject matter and the way in which the education occurs. Together, the residents who formed the focus group in developing this program have written the following Opening and Closing Remarks. If possible, we invite the resident co-facilitator to assume this role by writing and reading the opening and closing remarks (with assistance where needed). Please feel free to adapt as you see fit.

Suggested Opening Remarks:

Thank you for coming. I look forward to us getting to know each other better through this experience. This will be a different experience for all of us because it’s a time that I get the opportunity to speak directly on residents’ rights. On behalf of all residents living here, I invite you to look at the Residents’ Bill of Rights (LTCHA 2007) in a new way – from our perspective. The Rights are NOT words on a page, they are important concepts to be understood intimately as they relate to each and every person who calls this LTC home….home. Let’s learn together. I’m excited to be part of this experience. I hope you are too!

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Suggested Closing Remarks:

Thank you for listening and participating today. It was important for you to hear from me because this LTC home is where I live each and every day. I hope there is something that was said, or a feeling you have now, that will cause you to reflect in a different way about the Residents’ Bill of Rights. This was an important opportunity for us to come together to build relationships and understanding so that respect and authentic caring flourishes in my home with every interaction, person to person.

I would like to invite you to take your commitment card. Think about something that challenged you today and what you will commit to do differently. Maybe it is something you will do, maybe it is something you will say or think about differently. Maybe a conversation needs to happen with someone. Please write your thoughts down twice and rip the card in half. One half is for us – please place it in the jar on your way out, and one half is for you – put it in your pocket or purse for now. Later, put it in a place that you’ll refer to often – your fridge, your locker, your mirror, by your computer screen. Put it somewhere where you will be reminded of what transpired today.

Please talk more, listen more and make the investment in residents each and every day. I encourage you to have talks about residents’ rights often! Bring those words to life! Together we are a team and we make a difference in enhancing the lives of residents! Thank you very much. Goodbye for now.

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