

# MATES Junior Activity Resource Guide

Goal: **Academic skills**

Activity Type: Individual  
Relationship Stage: Mid-late

## Activity Name:

"Photo Essay"

## Objective:

To use photos as a prompt for creative writing

## Preparation Time:

10-15 minutes to find and print off photos

## Activity Duration:

30-40 minutes, depending on the number of photos and type of writing

## Required Material:

- Photos
- Writing Paper
- Pen/pencil

## Instructions:

- Find and print off photos to use as prompts for the creative writing. Try and use photos that are evocative, or are related to a hobby or interest the mentee has.
- With your mentee, discuss the photos and what messages or ideas are being communicated in each picture. Based on this discussion, ask your mentee to write something about one of the photos that appeals to them.
- After they have finished writing, ask them to read the story to you and discuss their ideas and feelings together.

## Further Notes:

- Encourage your mentee to write creatively: their writing doesn't have to be an explanation of what is happening in the photo. It may be about the feelings it evokes, the colours of the photo, or more broadly around the topic of the picture.
- The writing doesn't have to be a traditional story or report. Consider poetry, short stories, song lyrics, or a Letter to the Editor inspired by the photo.
- If they like more than one photo, allow them to explore that in their writing. Perhaps they see connections between multiple photos, or could imagine how people in different photos may be friends (or enemies!).