An introduction that changes the person

CEFR C2 | Unit 1: Rhetoric | Reading

Read the original text. You may underline evidence and reread as needed.

Name _____ Date _____

PROFILE FOR A FUNDING PANEL
Leila founded the neighborhood archive after a decade of documenting local workshops. Her contribution lies less in the acquisition of rare objects than in the relationships through which ordinary objects become intelligible. She describes the collection as a record of work that institutions have often noticed only at the point of disappearance. The archive is small, deliberately so: each addition requires the time to establish what can be said about it and whose account remains absent.

INTRODUCTION AT A LOCAL EVENT
Leila says she has spent ten years persuading people not to throw things away, and the other ten persuading herself not to keep everything. The archive began with a box of labels from a workshop that was closing. It has since acquired shelves, visitors and a slightly alarming reputation for knowing where things came from. She would prefer to say it knows whom to ask.

The two introductions share an identity but negotiate authority differently. The panel version names a method and situates it within an institutional gap. The event version makes the speaker approachable through self-correction and understatement. Neither requires the other to be false. Yet a careless adaptation could change the person: calling Leila a rescuer of a forgotten community would assign helplessness to the community and solitary agency to her. Calling the archive merely a hobby would minimize the method on which both accounts depend.

A precise adaptation must therefore preserve more than biographical facts. It should preserve the distribution of credit, the limits of the archive's knowledge and the speaker's chosen relationship to the audience.

Original Ilmiya practice text. Scenarios and research examples are fictional.