

This is a comprehensive guide to writing and formatting a Snowdrop Story. The purpose of this guide is to help new writers through the decision process, writing process, and publication. It is a worthwhile process that we hope to make as easy as possible.

Q. What is a Snowdrop Story?

A. A Snowdrop Story is any form of writing that is about a personal experience as a young person. Specifically, it is about adversity in the writer's life and how they overcame it. It can be any form of writing as long as it addresses the adversity, show how it impacted them, and how they overcame it/what they learned from it. The writing should end with a sense of hope and resolution. The best stories that we have seen have inspiring messages that resonate with the readers. Our goal is that young viewers will read these stories and gain insight and the courage to tackle any adversity that they may be facing in their lives. It is up to the writer to choose their way of sending their message. **Anyone can write, even adults.** Yes, adults can write too as long as their story was about an adversity from their youth.

Any type of adversity counts! You don't need to have an extreme form of adversity in your life to write. Your story matters! Our goal is to create a diverse collection of stories so that people are guaranteed to relate or be inspired. Based on what we have seen so far, here are some examples of adversity:

- Struggles with friends.
- Learning disabilities.
- Disabilities.
- Medical crises or complications.
- Vision loss.
- Low self-worth.
- Mental health issues (including self-harm)
- Eating disorders.
- Loneliness
- Losing a loved one and dealing with grief.

These are just the examples that we have seen so far in the stories. If your adversity doesn't fit into any category, don't worry! We accept any kind of adversity.

Words from previous writers:

“[Writing for Snowdrop Stories] helped me reflect on why I actually felt the way I did and from that I learned how to deal with similar situations and feelings in the future.”

“Snowdrop Stories has significantly helped me cope with the adversity I faced. It has allowed me to put my feelings into writing that I couldn’t have expressed verbally.”

“Writing a story forces you to sit and think. It helps you realize how far you have come!”

“Snowdrop Stories is not only a great way to cope with your hardships and challenges but also to reflect on how much you’ve grown through said challenges and become who you are today through facing and overcoming adversity.”

“For me, there was no better way to find healing than to reflect and write my story. The entire process helped me gain a positive perspective and hope for the future. I have always found inspiration from people who overcame adversity and I shared my story in the hope that it would make a difference in someone else’s life. I encourage everyone out there to share their story!”

“Snowdrop Stories helped me to reflect and realize that even when life is hard, you’re stronger than you think. Keep going, you’re here for a reason.”

While we encourage you to write and share your story, there are some considerations that you should take into account while writing.

Considerations while writing:

-Be careful not to share any explicit personal details: Details like your school, address, passcodes, last name, or anything else that could help identify you is cautioned against. Because this is online website, we need to make sure that you are keeping yourself and others safe.

-Avoid mentioning names or other's personal information, especially without permission:

Please avoid mentioning last names or projecting any attacks against people. We want this to be a positive environment.

-Feel free to be anonymous!

-Reach out with questions: If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at info@snowdropstories.com

By writing, you are making a difference!

Snowdrop Story Format:

Any form of writing that is used to tell a story is acceptable. The most common style is a story format. We also accept poetry, song lyrics, or other forms that are written. If you have questions or ideas of what could qualify, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are also considering adding art forms as well. Anyone can submit art forms with a written explanation of how it connects to their story or the mission of Snowdrop Stories. We will go over each style and their formats.

Story:

1. Start with a summary: We request that all of the stories begin with a summary briefly explaining what the story will be about as well as an introduction. These are two good examples of a starting summary: **Hello, my name is Taylor, and I am twelve years old. This story is about one of the hardest times in my life; when I lost my uncle. My uncle had many autoimmune diseases, one of which being Crohn's disease. This made his life extremely difficult. He once had to be on oxygen every day because of it. This tired him out and his body gave up. This experience has taught me how to heal in times of hardship and to cherish the moments with those you love. I hope this story reaches many people who have faced family grief and the harrowing pain of losing an uncle.**

I'm Rainer, and I'm 15 years old. I went from an outgoing friendly kid to someone who dealt with self doubt and confidence issues. I attended a small private school with not many options as far as friend groups went, which led to me being stuck in a toxic environment with fake friends where I developed insecurities and issues i would have to deal with later on. Coming into high school, I met new people and gained self confidence. My story will share how I struggled fitting in and how I dealt with teenage friendship issues.

The summary is the first thing that people see when they look in the blog so it is very important that it represents the rest of the story. The summary is what draws people in and should quickly address the adversity. That way people can see which stories they most connect to.

2. Build-up and describe the adversity: This part can be as long as you choose. This part should have a build up to the problem or adversity and describe what life was like before it and during it. This is the part where you describe how it made you feel and what you did to overcome it. Check the blog for examples.
3. Resolution: This part should describe how you OVERCAME the adversity. In the previous steps you addressed the adversity and what it was like to face it but in this step you must address what you did to overcome it. It doesn't have to be a neat resolution and we understand that adversity doesn't always go away. You might have to live with it for the rest of your life. If you have overcome the adversity, great! We want to hear about it. If you haven't, then please provide a hopeful resolution. And this means to share what makes you hopeful for the future related to your adversity. Take losing a loved one for example, grief can come in waves and so it is hard to tell if you have overcome it or not. The hopeful resolution would be to acknowledge this and the fact that time can help heal.

Poem:

1. Start with a summary: Just like the story, start with a summary. It is the first thing that people will see so make it strong! If you do not have a summary attached, we will add one. Here is an example from a girl who wrote a poem for us this year: **This is a poem by a 16 year old girl named Maggie. In this poem, she writes about themes of happiness, self worth, loneliness, and navigating through these emotions.** This is on the shorter side but as long as it gets to the point it is a good summary.
2. The Poem: This is where the actual poetry comes in. We have no guidelines for style of poetry or length. Your poem also doesn't need to conform to traditional styles like a sonnet, for example. Your poem doesn't need to rhyme. Most importantly, your poem

should be an accurate representation of your story. We can't wait to see what you come up with.

Song Lyrics:

1. Start with a summary: All writing forms must have some type of summary to start with. Just like with the story and poem, the summary is the first thing that people will see so make it strong! Introduce yourself and get right to what you will be writing about or in this case, what your song lyrics are about. You can also provide a little analysis and context which helps set the stage.
2. The lyrics: We request that you keep profanities out of it. Get creative with this!

Artwork:

1. Start with a summary: This is extra important for the artwork submission. With art, there can be little to no words at all. This means that it is extremely important to use the summary as context as well as to analyze.
2. The Artwork: Get as creative as you want with this one! Really express yourself. All that we ask is that it can be easily uploaded digitally. Anything 3D is harder to accomplish.
3. Analysis: Use this to share why you chose to do this artwork and why you expressed yourself the way you did.

Thank you to past writers as well as our future ones. We also thank all of our readers who help support these amazing youth voices. Help spread the word and reach out to us! If you don't have any adversity in your life but you still want to help, contact us and we will find a way.