



Publishing Policy and Procedures (for students)

Writing demands many things from us. It asks us to dig through our past to find ideas, details and inspiration; at the same time it asks us to imagine what might happen in the future, who our characters might become, what dramas the character will experience and witness. This is a lot to do and think about, and while we're thinking about these things we also need to think about how we're writing the piece and who we're writing it for.

As we do this, we need to take steps to protect ourselves and others; writing can be more powerful and sometimes harmful than we think it will be. Sometimes in the search for drama and excitement, even in the search to write something that sounds 'true,' we forget this. Writing has the power to make readers remember things they might not want to think about, to make us think about things we would prefer not to remember. It can also give people ideas they might not otherwise have had. Writing is powerful and we as writers need to be careful and responsible in both the stories we tell and the ways that we tell them.

When you write a story for us at Story Factory to publish, we have a responsibility to look after you and anyone who might read your story on our website. The audience on our website is very diverse. It includes adults, but also young people and children. They come from a wide range of backgrounds.

We can still publish stories with mature content, but we will do so with a warning that it may not be appropriate for younger readers. Sometimes we may also need to discuss with you the content of your story or the way you have written it. If we do this it will be because we are worried that what you are writing might reveal difficulties you are experiencing or have experienced, or it might lead another student or reader to thoughts that are potentially unsafe for them.

This might include things like vivid descriptions of violence, sexual violence or sexual content, self harm or suicide or racism, among other things.

If we believe your writing might have a negative impact on your readers, particularly other students, our first response will be to speak to you about it before the material is published. We're all learning as writers and one of the things you learn is that there are many, many different ways to write about confronting subject matter. Ideally we will work with you to develop the skills and tools to express your ideas in a way that is appropriate instead of placing limitations on what you can and cannot write about. We want you as a writer to have as much freedom as possible to explore the ideas that compel you, but we need to balance that with our commitment to the safety of anyone who might read your work.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact us at students@storyfactory.org.au.