



## Writing for SOSL



*I didn't start writing until I was forty-seven. I had always wanted to write but thought you needed a degree, or membership in a club nobody had asked me to join...It was a long time before I realized that you don't have to start right, you just have to start.*

--Abigail Thomas, author of  
*A Three Dog Life*

SOSL is always seeking more content to share with our survivor community. We believe that sharing the written word has a twofold benefit:

1. We often hear from readers of our Newsletter, book, or web content, letting us know how much reading other peoples' stories helped them. When we read the stories of other survivors we feel less alone. We can also find hope in the words of another.
2. We believe the writing process is cathartic, and as much as our shared words benefit others, putting our thoughts on paper can help us move forward in our own healing journey.

### **I want to write for SOSL, so what sort of content are you looking for?**

#### **Articles for our Newsletter**

We publish a newsletter four times a year. The newsletter, entitled *Hope & Comfort*, is published in March, June, September, and December. We are constantly collecting content and stories for the newsletter, so please submit anytime.

*Please note:* the deadline for submission for a specific newsletter is the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication (example: deadline for the December newsletter is November 1st).

You may review back issues of our newsletter at: [www.SOSLsd.org/resources/articles](http://www.SOSLsd.org/resources/articles).

- **Lead Story**: general range is 800 to 1,000 words. A submission may be selected for the lead story, or may be included in other sections of the newsletter.
- **Gratitude Speaks**: This section requires two parts. First, 50 to 150 words of something you are grateful for (examples: a funny memory, gratitude for family). Second, 50 to 150 words that reads like a note or message directed at your lost loved one (or a note to your family, or to yourself). Total word count cannot exceed 300 for both sections.
- **Lifetime Memories**: This is a new section we want to add to our newsletter. It will be a section focused on how our loved ones lived, rather than how they died. Generally 200 to 600 words focused on the positive impact your loved one brought to the world during their life.

### **Personal Stories for our Website**

We are constantly looking for personal stories we can publish on our website. There are no word count restrictions, but most of the stories are between 500 to 1,500 words.

We do ask that you submit a photo with your personal story. We prefer the photo to be of you, or you and your loved one, but we will accept photos of other things if you want anonymity (example: pets, sunset, etc.). If you do not have a photo, we can select one for you that compliments your written words. You may review Personal Stories: [www.SOSLsd.org/stories](http://www.SOSLsd.org/stories).

### **Poems or Stories about your loss**

We accept all submissions of writing for review, including poems and other prose. If your writing does not fall specifically into any of the above categories, please submit your writing to us anyway. We are always seeking new content to publish to help our survivor community.

### **Are there any restrictions on what can be submitted?**

No. We do not have any restrictions on written contributions; however, we reserve the right to publish only those writings that are considered to be of benefit to the majority of our survivor community.

Given the work that we do, we try very much to keep the overall tone of our publications positive and hopeful. Also, strong language can be used, but please note it will be censored with asterisks "\*\*\*" or edited out. We also reserve the right to correct spelling and grammar, without affecting your message.

Please see relevant length/word-count restrictions above.

### **Do I have to use my real name?**

No. You are welcome to use your real name, however, you do not have to. We encourage you to do what feels right for you. You are welcome to use your real name, your first name with last initial, a pen name, or submit as "anonymous."

Please note that our newsletter and other publications are posted on our website and are picked up by Google and other search engines.

### **Do I keep the rights to my work?**

Yes. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing with SOSL, you maintain all rights to your work, including the right to publish your work anywhere else electronically or in print.

### **Okay, so I've put my heart on the paper, now what?**

Please send your submissions to Jenni Morel at [Jenni@SOSLsd.org](mailto:Jenni@SOSLsd.org).

We prefer your work to be submitted as an email attachment in a Word (.doc or .docx) file.

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**Thank you for reviewing these guidelines  
and considering SOSL as a place to publish your writing!**