



Guidelines for Intermediate Section

- Interview at least one person for your story.
- Use a personal story to explore an issue.

People's stories are more interesting than lists of facts and figures.

- Use your own language and ideas. Don't imitate another writer's style.
- Start with a strong paragraph that encourages the reader to keep reading.
- Entries will be judged on their content and writing.

Do not try to make your story look like a newspaper or magazine article.

- Avoid using illustrations, photos, borders, colours or fancy fonts, more than one column or landscape layout.
- Entries to be typed, single or double-spaced. Preferred font is Times 12 point
- At the end of your article, note the person/people you interviewed for your story.
- Acknowledge the sources of additional information in a bibliography of books, articles or internet resources.
- Keep within the word limit. Entries must not exceed 700 words (16 and over section), 500 words (13 to 15 section), and 350 words (12 and under).



Guidelines for Junior section

Judges look for careful writing and an interesting personal story that explores ideas.

Interview at least one person whose story inspires you.

Include what this person's story can teach us about a specific issue.

Open with an interesting paragraph and end with a good conclusion.

Write in your own words and your own personal style.

Quote some sentences from the person you interview.

At the end of your story add a note about the person you interviewed.

Judges' Criteria

- A good title
- Audience appeal
- Writer's engagement with the topic
- Use of 'own' way of speaking
- Sense of the writer's voice behind the words
- Use of quotations
- Evidence of research or interview
- Fit with style and content of *Australian Catholics*