

Unfolding Adoptees

Writing Guidelines

Who are we? We're adoptees who are passionate about helping other adoptees and who want to amplify adoptee voices to build a community to support each other. While we want to share many perspectives, we aim to ground our community in the Gospel. Our stories are unique, but as Christians we believe that the common questions of origin and identity find their ultimate answer in Christ. We don't mean this in a trite way — please don't shy away from difficult questions or topics. The Gospel is wide enough to face difficult questions head on. **At Unfolding Adoptees, we believe God doesn't ignore human pain — his good news can speak into that pain with hope.**

So why are we here? We know that adoptees often work through adoption related issues alone since there aren't always other adoptees in our everyday lives. Sometimes we don't even realize that strands of our lives are affected by adoption, but there's often an "aha" moment when we hear other adoptees share their stories and we connect pieces in our own story. If you are considering writing for us, we hope that you have had the chance to process some parts of your own adoption, and we would love to hear about how that has revealed itself in your life.

This blog is meant to combat isolation, and to help adoptees think through how adoption impacts life. We want to collect writing from a wide range of adoptees along the spectrum of processing their adoption. **We want adoptees to find our community, read our stories, and realize as they read that they aren't alone.**

Choosing a Topic:

We believe that stories are powerful tools for sharing ideas. We are open to a wide range of topics so our broadest guideline is that you should choose something that is *meaningful to you* and that will be *helpful for other adoptees* to hear more about. As you think through your story, pick out the most significant three moments related to your adoption. These are likely incidents where you made connections that were previously unclear, that changed your views, or perhaps were simply significant milestones or events.

Choose one of these moments and retell the story in a way that highlights its impact on you, your family, and the way you think about adoption. Selecting one story will help readers focus on one aspect of the life of an adoptee. If you realize that you have more than one story to tell, consider writing more than one post. We have included a list of suggested prompts on the last page of this document if you are looking for ideas.

Additional details:

- Please include a title you'd like to use and let us know how you'd like to be credited.
- We understand that any topic you choose may be quite personal, and we are willing to publish posts anonymously, with just a first name, a pseudonym, or your full name.
- We will discuss anything other than typos with you before we publish. Editors and blog owners do have the right to edit and revise your work for all uses as it pertains to the writing guidelines and mission/vision found on this blog before posting your content.
- Please do not exceed 1500 words.
- By submitting your writing, you give Unfolding Adoptees the right to reprint some or all of your essay, but you will maintain copyright to your creative product.

Thank you again for contributing to our community. We are hopeful that it will help our community and are thankful for your partnership!

Prompt Ideas:

Birth family

1. Some adoptees do not think about their birth family for years, until something happens that raises questions or provokes reflection. Describe the event or series of events that caused you to think more deeply about your birth family. What happened, what thinking did it provoke, what changed as a result, and what are some positive and negative repercussions of these changes?
2. If you have met or searched for any members of your birth family, reflect on this process. How did this come about, how did you feel throughout, and what impact did finding or not finding your birth family have? Or pick one thing you learned about yourself in this process, explain the circumstances that set the stage for readers to understand your frame of mind, and then explain what you learned and how it has affected you.

Adoptive family

3. Pick one dynamic between you and an adoptive family member that you think is unique because you are adopted. It could be positive or negative, big or small, but use a few stories to illustrate how this dynamic plays out. Describe how you have or have not addressed this and what you wish the other person could know.
4. If you could wave a magic wand and change one adoption-related thing about you, your family, and/or your circumstances, what would this be? Explain your choice with a story or two, what would be different with this change, and reflect on what this says about you or about adoption broadly.

Race

5. Adoptees often face unique racial dynamics if they are part of inter-racial families. Follow the evolution of your understanding of the role of race in your life. What are key incidents that shaped your current thoughts? How is your experience as an adoptee unique?

Response to an article / depiction of adoption in a movie or TV show

6. There are a growing number of articles about adoption and portrayals of adoption in popular culture. Write a response to a recent mention — what do you think the portrayal gets right, and what are the shortcomings? Think specifically about how your perspective as an adoptee shapes your response. What are you thinking that might not be obvious to non-adoptees? Describe a specific life experience that shapes your response.