

Stories of Us Bullying Prevention



Make-Your-Own-Film Resource and Bullying Prevention Film Competition

The international **21st Century Skills Bullying Prevention Film Competition** has been established for student films developed and produced using the **highly successful Australian Stories of Us method**.

Working with the competition's US-Australian **Make-Your-Own-Film** active learning curriculum, students research the subject, collect data and build realistic timelines to explore how bullying develops, then translate their findings into short film scripts – and film selected scenes from their story.

The Make-Your-Own-Film Resource uniquely combines a range of core subject skills in a curriculum designed to promote social cohesion and help reduce bullying in schools.

"It would be difficult to find a classroom project that better illustrates the range of skills currently termed '21st century literacies,' and considered increasingly essential for academic and real-world achievement."
U.S. National Council of Teachers of English's "Council Chronicle"

"My students, racially, economically, and experientially diverse, came together in a way that I've not had the pleasure of seeing in my 16 years of teaching." Shameem Rakha, Teacher, Franklin Middle School

Student-produced films and scripts submitted for the competition will form the centre of a web-based, education-friendly hub to engage and empower young people in constructive dialogue to help reduce bullying.

The competition is proudly supported by the following U.S. partner organizations:



MAKE-YOUR-OWN-FILM RESOURCE

The **Stories of Us bullying prevention program** is composed of a unique series of film-based education resources developed and produced with students, for students. The films are compelling to young viewers as they authentically reflect their peers' collective experience of bullying – which is why the resources are so effective.

Building upon its success in Australia, Readymade Productions have established *Stories of Us* in the USA and are now offering this **extensive new curriculum** to Australian schools. The **Make-Your-Own-Film Resource** was made with American students by the Australian producer responsible for all the *Stories of Us* resources.

Designed for **Years 6-12**, the curriculum resource provides step-by-step instructions for teachers and students in the *Stories of Us* method so they can write, and film selected scenes from, their own short films. The focus is on the inquiry process, researching the subject, and building realistic timelines to explore how bullying develops – how it begins, what happens to perpetuate the problem, the role of bystanders, the reality of students' attempts to deal with the problem, and outcomes.

The project can be implemented in schools or after-school organisations by either English, Health, Arts and/or Technology staff. It is also **an excellent interdisciplinary project**. Instruction in basic filmmaking is provided, however students are encouraged to keep this aspect as simple as possible and develop stories within the limitations of their class and school – working with the students in their class, drawing upon their existing abilities, and filming in areas acceptable to their school. The professional student film is presented as an example of what can be achieved by students with little or no previous experience with acting or filmmaking. Seen from this perspective, students watching the film are inspired and empowered by the potential to authentically communicate their own collective experience. Also included are behind-the-scenes footage of the development and production of the professional student film to illustrate the process.

Australian Secondary Resources

“Stories of Us is the best, most realistic account of bullying in schools that I have come across. Compulsive viewing for both children and educators.” Professor Ken Rigby, University of South Australia

“The impact on the kids was unbelievable. They recognised their own language, behaviour and culture. It blew them away.” Kate Pollock, Teacher, Victoria

The Australian *Stories of Us* initiative's unique approach to education resources has been **internationally acclaimed** by leading academics in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and the USA.

The **easy to use, classroom resources** combine films developed and produced with school students with extensive Teacher's Guides, providing step-by-step instructions, discussion starters and activities for use over a number of lessons, and detailed support information for teachers. Each episode presents the story of two 'students' as they deal, in their own way, with the given issue. Because of the production method, *Stories of Us* speaks to the young audience in their own language, in a style and format they respect.

The *Stories of Us* resources have been developed with Optima Psychologists & Mediators in consultation with student counsellors and teachers from a range of schools, with the support the Department of Education & Children's Services, MindMatters, *beyondblue* and the South Australian Film Corporation.

There are three resources in the Australian Secondary Series*:

• **Bullying** • **Relationships** • **Stress**

*Primary resources are also available.

For more information about the *Make-Your-Own-Film Resource*, the Australian Secondary Series and the *21st Century Skills Bullying Prevention Film Competition* – including online film previews, Teacher's Guide extracts, pricing and ordering options – visit:

www.storiesofus.com.au

Or contact Readymade Productions – Phone: (08) 8377 7294 – Email: admin@readymade.com.au