



APSU Writing Center

Content Warnings for APSU Paper Submissions

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The APSU Writing Center strives to create an inclusive atmosphere that is welcoming to all student writers. Our writing tutors bring a variety of experiences, identities, and positionalities to their work. To allow for a creative and inclusive space that allows others to express themselves through their written work, we ask students to provide content warnings related to sensitive or triggering content.

What is sensitive or triggering content?

This definition will be different for everyone, and even the same person can experience the same content differently at different times. With those considerations in mind, sensitive or triggering content are topics, depictions, and discussions that can evoke heightened negative emotions, re-traumatization, and/or secondary trauma for readers.

How do I provide content warnings for my appointments?

When scheduling an appointment or turning a paper into D2L, write in the information box the area in which your paper needs assistance. You will first include the name of the assignment, writing style, and area in which you need assistance. Once this is complete, add a sentence or two describing the topics of your content.

Examples:

- "This writing contains references to [____ topics]. It also has depictions of [____ themes]."
- "In this assignment I will be going over a [divorce]..."
- "In this assignment I will be going over [mental illness, PTSD, anxiety]..."

Important to note:

As writing center consultants, we must report the following information to other University offices (including the Department of Police and Public Safety) if you share it with us:

- (1) Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child;
- (2) Allegations of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; and
- (3) Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others. These reports may prompt contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with them. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, there are many confidential resources on campus.



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What topics, depictions, and discussions does this include?

If your written work may include sensitive content, please inform your tutor at the start of your appointment. These warnings will allow for your writing consultant to prepare or consent to participate in discussing your topic. (however, at any time, a consultant may end an appointment if they are no longer able to engage to the best of their ability). Feel free to state specifics in your topic discussion as it creates a starting point.

Sensitive Topics may be under the umbrella of:

- Violence
- Mental Illness
- Bodily and Medical Content
- Oppressive Content
- Political Views
- Religious Standpoints

How specific should I be in stating what my written work is about?

- Be as specific as you would like as the list of potential topics is endless. If you want to learn more about the topics that should be given a content warning read more in our references list at the end of this packet.



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References

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