

You will work through some tasks to help you prepare a piece of writing to enter the Orwell Youth Prize, on the theme of ...

'A NEW DIRECTION: STARTING SMALL'



LESSON 5 – Problem Busters: We Can Fix This!

TASK: Write an article, explaining what you think is the biggest problem in your area – and your idea for fixing it. Decide whether your piece is for a local or national newspaper, a magazine (to do with your problem) or a relevant website.

Use the critical thinking questions below to help you come up with ideas, develop and refine them. Make notes on each point: they will become your paragraphs when you write this.

1 What ... do you think is the Number 1 problem where you live? Keep it small – or go big if you wish – but keep the focus local.

2 How ... do you know this? What's your evidence that it matters most?

3 What is your solution ... Technically – how would it actually get done?

4... Politically – how will you convince local/national decision makers that your idea fits in with their values?

5... Financially – where will the money come from? Will your idea save or generate funds? Or will money have to be diverted from another spending commitment?

6 Why ... will one group of people disagree with you – and how can you convince them to change their minds? (Think about *why* they would object, how would it affect them.)

Skills? * Practise critical thinking to get better at problem solving – and, as a result, better at your non-fiction writing too. *

Further Reading & Learning: Want to know more about local journalism and why it's important? Find top tips on writing journalism and why a stronger local journalism sector through our resource ['Stories from the Ground Up: Local Journalism' in partnership with The Bristol Cable](#)