

These tasks will help you prepare a piece of writing to enter the Orwell Youth Prize, on the theme for 2023
'Who's in Control?'



LESSON 6 – Planning and Drafting Your Entry

Now that you have decided on a topic, started to research it, and chosen a form to write in, you are ready to plan and write your entry to the Orwell Youth Prize.

One question to ask yourself could be: *How can I best express my thoughts and feelings about power and control?* Not bad.

Another question might be: *How should I plan purposefully and write imaginatively about power and control to interest and challenge my readers?* This is a longer and wordier question. But it is also a better one. Why? Because it reminds you that good writing is not simply about telling people what you think, it's about taking your reader on a journey that they will enjoy.

Rule 1: Structure is king! You can alter your expression as you go along and get feedback from others. But a well organised piece will always be a satisfying piece.

Rule 2: Plan your work. You could perhaps write a good piece without proper planning but remind yourself of this fact: someone who has planned will write a better one!

Tasks: carry out the three planning tasks below and then write your piece. Good luck!

1. Conquer your blank page. Brainstorm: write whatever comes into your mind on a topic. Don't be afraid to throw away your first, second, third ideas. Keep jotting down words and phrases: stuff you've heard or read, snatches of speech, bizarre stories, whatever is in your head. A solid idea will start to emerge.
2. Plan. Decide the things you are going to cover and put them in a number order – the order the reader is going to find out about them.
3. Copy and complete one of the two boxes below to ensure your structure is working for you.

Beginning	Middle	End
What do I do first to engage my reader?	How will the piece develop in interesting ways?	What feelings, conclusions and questions do I want to leave my reader with?

Hook	Initial Problem	Developing Problem	Climax	Resolution
How am I grabbing the reader – taking them into the world of the piece?	How am I setting up the main idea or challenge that the piece will explore?	How am I complicating that challenge, taking it in a new direction?	How am I taking the piece to the most important point – of conflict or revelation or decision?	How am I going to end the piece? With answers or more questions?