

These tasks will help you prepare a piece of writing to enter the

Orwell Youth Prize 2024, on the theme of ‘HOME’

LESSON 2: Local problems, local solutions

**TASK:** Write an article, explaining what you think is the biggest problem in your local 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 matters, through our resource [‘Stories from the Ground Up: Local Journalism’ in partnership with The Bristol Cable](https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-youth-prize/for-teachers/for-teachers/stories-from-the-ground-up-local-journalism/)