

These tasks will help you prepare a piece of writing to enter the Orwell Youth Prize 2024, on the theme of 'Home'



LESSON 6: START WRITING

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 home? Not bad.*

Another question might be: *How should I plan purposefully and write imaginatively about home 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. Start with a **free write**:
 - Set a timer for 5 minutes
 - Write whatever comes into your mind on the topic of home – it doesn't matter if it's not great writing, it doesn't even need to be full sentences, all that matters is you **keep writing for the full 5 minutes**.
 - Don't read back what you've written or make any edits until the 5 minutes is up.
 - When the 5 minutes is up, have a look back at what you've got. Highlight/underline anything which seems interesting. A solid idea will start to emerge.
2. **Plan.** Looking at these notes, decide on the key points/ideas 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 test out your structure.

Beginning	Middle	End
What do I do first to engage my reader?	How will the piece develop in interesting ways?	What feelings, conclusions or 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?

