



Orwell Youth Prize: Guide to Starting Writing: 2020

You can begin in one of three ways:

- Research
- Plan
- Practise

Research. You can research any topics to do with the future, until you find the thing that gets you going. Once you have a good idea, look for material that will deepen your own thinking. That might include: facts and statistics; future theories; opinions of others to which you may react.

Plan. Brainstorm first: write whatever comes into your mind on a topic ... until a solid idea starts to emerge. Then, when you are happy with the idea – and have decided which form you are writing in – you can make brief notes, organising them to give the piece shape (especially beginning, middle, end). The plan is the guide that keeps you on track as you write, though you may well change it as you go along.

Practise. If you're confident you know where you're going, you can start writing a piece straight away. Don't forget that writing is a process and that you will alter your work as it takes shape and after others have read it.

If you don't have another idea, try one of the following:

- 1) Continue your **news story** based on your headline. Invent quotes from people involved. OR write a piece of **journalism** from the point of view of an undercover journalist, attempting to expose an untold story of your imagined future.
- 2) Write a **story** from the point of view of someone from today who is transported to 'the future you want'. What do they find weird and wonderful about that world? How do they cope? OR write a **script** of the conversation between them and people of the future.
- 3) Write a **performance poem** with one of these titles:
'1984 no more'. 'Forget the past, it's the future you've got to remember'.
'They said it couldn't happen'. OR invent your own title.