

These tasks will help you prepare a piece of writing to enter the Orwell Youth Prize, on the theme  
**'Coming Up for Air: Writing the Climate Crisis'**



## 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 the climate crisis?* Not bad.

Another question might be: *How should I plan purposefully and write imaginatively about the climate crisis 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.** 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 will 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?