

THE ORWELL YOUTH PRIZE

Frequently Asked Questions

Can't find what you were looking for? Simply get in touch with us via admin@orwellyouthprize.co.uk and we will do our best to help.

Do I need to have attended an Orwell Youth Prize workshop to enter the prize?

Not at all. The prize is open to anyone aged 14 – 18 who is at school or college, from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales. You don't need to have participated in an Orwell Youth Prize workshop to enter.

I am a previous winner. Can I enter again this year?

Yes. The Orwell Youth Prize is open to everyone who has previously won, or been shortlisted or longlisted for the Orwell Youth Prize.

Can I enter two pieces?

No – we offer individual feedback to each entrant, and so we only accept one entry per person. However, you are welcome to submit one piece as a first draft and a different piece as your final entry.

What should I write about?

Write about something that matters to you, and that you want to draw to the attention of others. All entries should take their inspiration from the theme, but how you address the theme is completely up to you.

Every year, the Youth Prize takes a theme from author George Orwell's work to inspire your responses to the world around you. This year's theme is "Truth vs. Lies".

In his classic novels *1984* and *Animal Farm*, George Orwell created worlds in which it was impossible to say what is true and what is false: worlds full of misinformation where you could not even be sure of your own reality – and where the fight for truth can be deadly.

The Orwell Youth Prize takes its inspiration from the English author [George Orwell](#). Orwell wrote from his own experience, and observed the social injustices and political happenings of the world around him.

Do I have to write about George Orwell?

No. We're interested in what you want to write about: what *you* think people need to hear.

How long should my entry be?

The word limit is 1000 for the junior category (if you're in years 9 – 11) and 1500 in the senior category (you sixth-formers). There is no obligation to use the entire word count unless you need to: some entries, like poems, will be shorter than others. The Orwell Youth Prize reserves the right to check the length of all longlisted entries.

How should I write?

You can write in any form you like: journalism, essays, short stories, blog posts, poems and even plays are all welcome.

I've written something with my friend. Can we submit a joint entry?

Yes – we welcome entries written in a pair or small group. Please upload your entry to the form as usual and email us at admin@orwellyouthprize.co.uk with the details of any additional authors.

I've made a video, or recorded a spoken word poem – can I enter it into the prize?

Although we can't accept video or audio entries or files, you could (in fact, we'd encourage you to!) submit a written version ('transcript') of your piece, whether it's a script for a film or the page version of a poem.

How do I submit my entry?

Please upload your entry using the online form on our website. If you have any questions about the form, fire away at admin@orwellyouthprize.co.uk

I can't save my entry as a Microsoft Word or PDF file. How do I upload my entry?

If you don't use Microsoft Word, please try to save your document as a "pdf" file. If you having trouble creating a Microsoft Word or "pdf" file, please email admin@orwellyouthprize.co.uk and we will explain what to do next.

What do I win?

Everyone who is longlisted for the Orwell Youth Prize will be invited to the Orwell Youth Prize Celebration Day event at Pembroke College, Oxford, featuring workshops with professional writers, debate sessions and a tour of the college. Place will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis to all longlistees initially.

Every runner-up receives a collection of George Orwell's essays and a certificate. Orwell Youth Prize winners receive all the above as well as all George Orwell's novels and full-length non-fiction works. **GOOD LUCK!**