

What is the Orwell Youth Prize? The Orwell Youth Prize is a prestigious writing competition that encourages young people to engage with political, social, and ethical issues through creative and critical writing. Inspired by George Orwell's legacy, the prize fosters the exploration of themes such as freedom, justice, and inequality. This year's theme is FREEDOM!



2.

If liberty means anything at all,
it means the right to tell people
what they do not want to hear.

George Orwell

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

5.

'Freedom is unequally distributed; wealth, race, gender, sexuality, ability and class often determine who has access to freedoms.'
Explore how this is true across the globe.



3.

Exploring the theme of Freedom:

What is freedom? Freedom is the ability to act, think, or speak without undue restriction or interference.

What types of freedom are there? Personal, political, economic, social, and environmental.

What does freedom of expression mean? The right to share opinions and ideas without censorship.

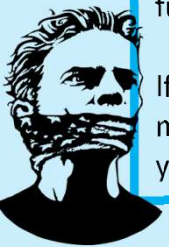
Are freedom and power linked? Authority can both grant and limit freedoms.

Which would you rather: The freedom 'from' something or the freedom 'to do' something? Which do you believe is more important and why?

4.

Here are some Historical Fights for Freedom: Civil Rights Movement, Abolition of Slavery, Women's Suffrage. How did these movements bring about freedom? What was gained in each case? You will need to do some research to help you answer this question fully.

If you could bring about a new movement, what freedom would you fight for? And why?



1.

Why does it matter?

1. Empowering Young Voices:

The prize gives students a platform to express their ideas on significant issues, encouraging them to develop their voice and engage with the world critically.

2. Connection to Orwell's Legacy:

George Orwell's works, such as *1984* and *Animal Farm*, are known for their insightful critiques of totalitarianism, inequality, and propaganda. The prize keeps his spirit alive by inspiring young writers to explore these themes in contemporary contexts.

3. Fostering Analytical Skills:

By participating, students learn to research, analyse, and critique societal issues, building their ability to think critically and construct persuasive arguments.

4. Encouraging Creativity:

The competition values creative approaches, whether through essays, poetry, fiction, or other forms of writing, making it accessible to a range of talents and interests.

5. Raising Awareness:

Students explore pressing global issues, such as climate change, social justice, and freedom of speech, fostering a deeper understanding of the world and their role within it.

Expressions of freedom in literature texts:

Dystopia: An imagined society that is undesirable or frightening, often featuring extreme limitations on freedom (e.g., Orwell's *1984*).

Satire: The use of humour, irony, or ridicule to criticize society, often in relation to freedom or political oppression.

Allegory: A narrative in which characters or events represent abstract ideas or principles, often exploring themes like freedom or power (e.g., *Animal Farm*).

Symbolism: The use of symbols to represent ideas or concepts, often used in literature and art to explore freedom (e.g., the caged bird in Maya Angelou's poem).

Metaphor: A figure of speech where one thing is said to be another, often used to express the intangible aspects of freedom, such as the metaphor of "chains" for oppression.



"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves." – Abraham Lincoln



10.

Questioning Freedom. Consider each if the following:

What does it mean to be truly free in a world governed by laws, societal norms, and personal responsibilities?

Is freedom an inherent human right, or is it something that must be earned or fought for?

Can one ever be completely free, or are we always bound by some form of limitation, whether physical, emotional, or societal?



6.

"Freedom is the open window through which pours the sunlight of the human spirit and human dignity." – Herbert Hoover



Freedom- related key Terminology:

1. Freedom: The state of being free, without constraints or oppression.

2. Autonomy: The right or condition of self-government, the ability to make one's own choices.

3. Liberty: The state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority.

4. Oppression: Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control, often by a government or authority.

5. Censorship: The suppression or prohibition of speech, writing, or other forms of expression considered objectionable or harmful.

7.

Explore: What does true freedom look like?

What does the natural world teach us about what it means to be free?

Does absolute freedom lead to chaos, and if so, is the concept of freedom inherently contradictory?

Are humans more free now due to technological advancements, or has technology created new forms of dependency and control?

Are we freer when we act selfishly for our desires, or when we surrender personal freedom for the benefit of others?



9.

10 Top Tips for Putting Forward a Powerful Line of Argument

1. Start with a Clear Thesis Statement:

Ensure your central argument is concise, specific, and easy to understand. A strong thesis anchors your argument and guides your reader through your points.

2. Understand Your Audience:

Tailor your argument to resonate with them. Use examples or language that appeals to them directly.

3. Use Strong Evidence:

Support your points with credible data, statistics, examples, expert opinions, or quotes. Reliable evidence makes your argument harder to contradict.

4. Anticipate Counterarguments:

Acknowledge opposing viewpoints and refute them with logic and evidence. This demonstrates a balanced understanding of the issue and strengthens your position.

5. Structure Your Argument Clearly:

Use a logical progression of ideas: introduce the topic, state your argument, provide supporting evidence, and conclude decisively. Use connectives to guide readers or listeners.

6. Appeal to Logic (Logos), Emotion (Pathos), and Ethics (Ethos):

Balance logical reasoning with emotional appeals and establish your credibility. A combination of all three creates a persuasive and impactful argument.

7. Use Powerful Language and Rhetorical Devices:

Employ techniques like repetition, listing, emotive language, rhetorical questions, and analogies to emphasise key points and make your argument memorable.

8. Stay Focused and Avoid Tangents:

Stick to the central topic and avoid introducing irrelevant points that may dilute your argument. Each point should clearly support your thesis. Avoid repeating yourself, make sure you explore and research your topic deeply to avoid superficial or overly obvious ideas.

9. Be Confident and Passionate:

Confidence in your delivery—whether written or spoken—makes your argument more convincing. Genuine passion for your topic can inspire your audience.

10. Conclude with Impact:

End with a strong closing statement that reinforces your thesis and leaves a lasting impression. A powerful conclusion motivates your audience to agree or take action.

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." – Nelson Mandela

8.