

The Orwell Youth Prize

More than just a prize: a journey from a debate-provoking workshops to self creation

<https://engagenow.eu/case-studies/the-orwell-youth-prize>

The Orwell Youth Prize is a journey for young people through workshops. Writers provoke debate and help young writers to write what they think. An online platform is created where their voice, through their writing, can influence power.

The Orwell Youth Prize nurtures the voices and aspirations of young people by encouraging their critical thinking skills and improving their confidence in writing. Through increasing young people's interest in current affairs and social issues the Prize works towards widening their participation in higher education. It especially focuses on youngsters who are educationally disadvantaged outside of London.

More than just a prize, the Orwell Youth Prize takes young people on a journey, progressing from debate-provoking workshops, to hearing from writers about tools for effective communication, receiving individual feedback to building a community of young writers. Students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to discover and develop their talents and abilities beyond the curriculum: and for those who want to change the world the Orwell Youth Prize offers a platform where their voice, through their writing, can influence power.

LOCATION: UNITED KINGDOM

WEBSITE: WWW.ORWELLFOUNDATION.COM/THE-ORWELL-YOUTH-PRIZE/

YEAR THE PROJECT BEGAN: 2015

DURATION: < 1 MONTH

ORGANIZER: [THE ORWELL FOUNDATION](http://WWW.ORWELLFOUNDATION.COM)

ARTS AND CULTURE SECTORS:

- LITERATURE: WRITING
- LITERATURE: READING
- LITERATURE: COMPREHENSION
- LITERATURE: ORAL EXPRESSION

AGE TARGETS:

- YOUNGSTERS AND ADOLESCENTS (13-18 YEARS OLD)

GENDER TARGETS: ALL

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC TARGETS:

- URBAN
- METROPOLITAN
- RURAL

AIMS:

- EDUCATION
- EMPOWERMENT
- SOCIAL INTEGRATION

MAIN GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The main goal of the Orwell Youth Prize is to inspire a new generation of politically engaged young writers.

ROLE OF YOUNG AUDIENCES

The Orwell Youth Prize engages and supports young audiences. The prize offers young audiences opportunities for direct interaction through school workshops and regional events with widening participation programmes at universities in the UK. It also provides open access opportunities for entrants to the prize to receive feedback on their writing and entries. Furthermore, the prize develops resources for both teachers and young people around politics, literature and critical thinking. Young writers are at the core of the Orwell Youth Prize's work.

The role of young audiences on the online platform is to share their work and receive feedback, as well as to provide resources to support teachers in bringing the writings of Orwell and issues raised in the workshops back into the classroom. The Orwell Youth Prize wants to celebrate the best examples of writing, for both group and individual work.

AIMS

The project is based on Orwell wanting 'to make political writing into an art'. This prize wants to give young writers from all over the country, whatever their background and whatever their ability, the opportunity to do the same.

WHY IS IT "A CASE OF GOOD PRACTICE"?

This is a case of good practice because it brings a rigorous integrity, 21 years of experience in running a successful adult writing prize, and a wide network of writers and journalists that every year are eager to lead workshops and act as mentors and judges. The Orwell Youth Prize has reached 10,000 young people in 200 schools over the first five years. Furthermore, the prize complements the national curriculum – specifically GCSEs and A Levels in English, Politics, History and Creative Writing and the EPQ and citizenship programmes – however the prize is open to all young writers regardless of the subjects they study, story, and setting. Literature classes challenge their thinking and bolster their confidence to become even more skilled in the use of their language.