



Chapter One

ATTITUDE RECTIFIED. DOUBLE**PLUS**GOOD.

AS 91475: WRITING PORTFOLIO - 6 CREDITS

3.4: PRODUCE A SELECTION OF FLUENT AND COHERENT WRITING WHICH DEVELOPS, SUSTAINS, AND STRUCTURES IDEAS



| Achievement | Achievement with Merit | Achievement with Excellence |
|--|--|---|
| Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas. | Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas and is convincing . | Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas and commands attention . |



Dystopia | dis'təʊpiə |

noun

An imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad, typically a totalitarian or environmentally degraded one.

Outline

This task is an extension of our genre study of the dystopia *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell. This is an opportunity to create your own dystopia, grounded in the socio-political anxieties of our time.

Preparation

1. Make a decision about **what aspect** of present day society you are going to choose to project into a fictional dystopian future.
2. Source **key material** including photographs, newspaper articles, personal accounts and facts that surround this socio-political concern
3. Explore **features of the dystopian genre** that are prevalent across a number of texts, for example:
 - Viewpoint
 - Grammatical formulations
 - Use of neologism
 - Establishment of setting
 - Creation of a single rebellious character
4. Identify the **key elements** of the first page and chapter of a range of fictional novels

The Final Piece

SIZE

While there is no specific word limit, **800-1000 words** will allow you to introduce the dystopian setting develop the required tension for the beginning of a novel.

CONDITIONS

The final piece will be written in class over **4 periods**. You may use your online journals to complete the writing and some superficial feedback may be sought as part of the initial drafting process.

SCOPE

Your proficiency with spelling and deliberate crafting of grammar and punctuation will aid the creation of a striking first chapter, as will conforming to a clear, carefully constructed structure with your writing.

ADVICE

You are advised to refer to as many first pages and first chapters you can in order to refine your understanding of how such a piece can be constructed for effect.

Seek feedback from your teacher in the early stages of your drafting in order to ensure you are on the right track.



Exemplar

DBC PIERRE

Vernon God Little

The introduction engages the reader through the parallel use of direct address and the colloquial first-person 'voice' of the main character and narrator.

Extensive, original and striking use of figurative language

The author clearly establishes the setting (Southern United States) and the predicament of the main protagonist - they're in custody at a police station after a mass murder.

Sardonic tone generated by the close juxtaposition of banal facts and shocking ones - strengthened by varied sentence length

Careful selection of sensory detail to create atmosphere.

It's hot as hell in Martirio, but the papers on the porch are icy with the news.

Don't even try to guess who stood all Tuesday night in the road. Clue: snotty ole Mrs Lechuga. Hard to tell if she quivered, or if moths and porchlight through the willows ruffled her skin like funeral satin in a gale. Either way, dawn showed a puddle between her feet. **It tells you normal times just ran howling from town.** Probably forever. God knows I tried my best to learn the ways of this world, even had inklings we could be glorious; but after all that's happened, the inkles ain't easy anymore. I mean – what kind of f***en life is this?

Now it's Friday at the sheriff's office. Feels like a Friday at school or something. School – don't even f***en mention it.

I sit waiting between shafts of light from a row of doorways, naked except for my shoes and Thursday's underwear. Looks like I'm the first one they rounded up so far. I ain't in trouble, don't get me wrong. I didn't have anything to do with Tuesday. Still, you wouldn't want to be here today. You'd remember Clarence Somebody, that ole black guy who was on the news last winter. He was the psycho who dozed in this same wooden hall, right on camera. The news said that's how little he cared about the effects of his crimes. By 'effects' I think they meant axe-wounds. Ole Clarence **Whoever was shaved clean like an animal, and dressed in the kind of hospital suit that psychos get, with jelly-jar glasses and all, the type of glasses worn by people with mostly gums and no teeth. They built him a zoo cage in court. Then they sentenced him to death.**

I just stare at my Nikes. Jordan New Jacks, boy. I'd perk them up with a spit-wipe, but it seems kind of pointless when I'm naked. **Anyway, my fingers are sticky.** This ink would survive Armageddon, I swear. Cockroaches, and this f***en fingerprint ink.