

Name:

Class:

English teacher (initials):



Science Fictional Writing





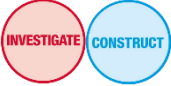








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Identifying questions to guide my investigation



I already know

I wonder

1. Going places:

How technological developments in the way we travel could shape the future



1. If a link doesn't work, try searching for that title on *The Day* or *The Day Explorer*.
2. **Do not** read **all** the articles – choose a few. Start with the articles from *The Day* but if you find these difficult, the articles from *The Day Explorer* are designed to be shorter and easier to read.

Self-driving cars

- ☐ [Driverless cars ponder who should die first](#)
- ☐ [Uber self-driving car kills US pedestrian](#)
- ☐ [Google takes giant leap in self-driving cars](#)
- ☐ [Why driverless cars will be the end of an era](#)
- ☐ [Briefing: self-driving-cars](#)
- ☐ [Self-driving cars still a risk for real roads](#)

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Other transport on Earth

- ☐ [Flying cars lift off in fight for the future](#)
- ☐ [Worldwide rocket travel is another mad idea](#)
- ☐ [Cynics ridicule Uber's plan for flying cars](#)
- ☐ [Scientists claim to have reversed time](#)
- ☐ [Buckle up! The flying taxi is here](#)
- ☐ [Google secretly tests electric flying taxis](#)
- ☐ [The Hyperloop](#)

Beyond Earth

- ☐ [You could soon be taking holidays in space](#)
- ☐ [Race to make Moon Earth's eighth continent](#)
- ☐ [US fires starting gun in new race to the Moon](#)
- ☐ [Sputnik is 60 as new space race beckons](#)
- ☐ [Emergency plan to deflect giant asteroid](#)
- ☐ [Huge meteor explosion like 10 atom bombs](#)
- ☐ [Meet Space Force, Trump's new military branch](#)
- ☐ [The first ever image of a black hole](#)
- ☐ [NASA's Parker probe makes daring fly-by of the Sun](#)
- ☐ [Moon or Mars: choosing humanity's new home](#)
- ☐ [The bold plan to build a new home on the Moon](#)
- ☐ [America to put first woman on the Moon](#)
- ☐ [China grows cotton plant on the Moon](#)
- ☐ [Chinese robot lands on the Moon](#)
- ☐ [Space tourism](#)
- ☐ [The real truth about daily life in Outer Space](#)
- ☐ [India joins space elite with mission to Mars](#)
- ☐ [The first ever image of a black hole](#)
- ☐ [Meet the asteroid that could one day hit the Earth](#)

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Alien life

- ☐ [It has rain, water, clouds: so maybe life too!](#)
- ☐ [America's secret UFO research unit revealed](#)
- ☐ [Not that far: a planet where life is likely](#)
- ☐ [Scientists warn public on alien communication](#)
- ☐ [Alien hunting telescope runs out of fuel](#)
- ☐ [The new satellite: on the hunt for alien planets](#)
- ☐ [Methane discovery boosts hope for life on Mars](#)
- ☐ [Weird space object could come from aliens](#)
- ☐ [The new planet that could support alien life](#)
- ☐ [Seven beautiful earth sized planets found](#)

2. The Stuff of Life:

How technological developments in the way we understand and modify living things could shape the future



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Human genetic modification

- ☐ [Fear and celebration at first edited embryo](#)
- ☐ [Landmark UK vote approves three person babies](#)
- ☐ [Moral storm as designer babies get green light](#)
- ☐ [The future: godlike elites and useless masses](#)
- ☐ [Humanity could one day live without sleep](#)
- ☐ [Debate rages as first designer babies born](#)
- ☐ [Scientists cure diseases before birth](#)



Human technological modification (cyborgs)

- ☐ [Why future bosses might microchip your hand](#)
- ☐ [How science is transforming entertainment](#)
- ☐ [Brains bionics and the future of bodies](#)
- ☐ [The plan to merge human brains with computers](#)
- ☐ [Mind-reading fears as brain science advances](#)
- ☐ [Alarm over microchip injections for UK workers](#)

Plant and animal genetic modification

- ☐ [Game changer as mice pass down edited genes](#)
- ☐ [Fears over genetically modified super fish](#)
- ☐ [Trade secrets: bananageddon](#)
- ☐ [Scientists declare gene-editing war on pests](#)
- ☐ [Purple mutant tomatoes headed for UK shops](#)
- ☐ ['Woolly mammoths could walk the Earth again'](#)
- ☐ [Scientists create first human-monkey hybrid](#)
- ☐ [Mammoths one step closer to re-birth](#)
- ☐ [Scientists create human-monkey cross](#)



Other biological technologies

- ☐ [Gene scientists in secret talks on replicants](#)
- ☐ [How to find out your entire genetic make-up](#)
- ☐ [How technology is shaping the future of love](#)
- ☐ [Baby in a bag: artificial womb project launches](#)
- ☐ [Scientists bring pigs' brains back from the dead](#)
- ☐ [Hope rises for disease-free world by 2100](#)
- ☐ [Scientists transplant memories into snails](#)
- ☐ [Genetics dream: Personalised medicine for everyone](#)
- ☐ [Introducing the world's first monkey clones](#)



3. The Robots are Coming:

How technological developments in Artificial Intelligence and robotics could shape the future



1. If a link doesn't work, try searching for that title on *The Day* or *The Day Explorer*.
2. **Do not** read **all** the articles – choose a few. Start with the articles from *The Day* but if you find these difficult, the articles from *The Day Explorer* are designed to be shorter and easier to read.

Robots and AI at work

- ☐ [Robots to replace 20m factory jobs by 2030](#)
- ☐ [AI is bigger threat than terror, says scientist](#)
- ☐ [Happy birthday NHS. Now bring on the robots](#)
- ☐ [2017 in review: The year the robots got smart](#)
- ☐ [How machines will revolutionise the workplace](#)
- ☐ [How robots will run the schools of the future](#)
- ☐ [Facebook robots spark new panic over AI](#)
- ☐ [The tiny robots that could change the world](#)
- ☐ [Chinese robot passes national medical exams](#)
- ☐ [Robots at work](#)
- ☐ [Should robots replace humans?](#)
- ☐ [The age of robot chefs](#)

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Robots and AI as 'people'

- ☐ [New robot on the path to self-awareness](#)
- ☐ [The disturbing rise of racist robots](#)
- ☐ [The curious ethics of cruelty to robots](#)
- ☐ [Robots are electronic persons says EU](#)
- ☐ [The Pope, the professor and our robot future](#)
- ☐ [Star wars and the quest for robot rights](#)

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NEWS TO OPEN MINDS

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Robots and AI at home

- ☐ [Amazon promises to fix Alexa's creepy laugh](#)
- ☐ [The friendly chatbot that mimics your voice](#)
- ☐ [Google unveils next steps in AI Technology](#)
- ☐ [How relying on computers leads to disaster](#)
- ☐ [How technology is shaping the future of love](#)
- ☐ [How robots could take over your home](#)
- ☐ [Invasion of the home help robots](#)
- ☐ [Are computers getting too clever?](#)
- ☐ [The smart speakers that know if you're sick](#)
- ☐ [Now even our pets could be robots too](#)
- ☐ [Your new robot puppy](#)

THE DAY
NEWS TO OPEN MINDS

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Robots and AI at war

- ☐ [Terminate scientists vow to block killer bots](#)
- ☐ [Threat of killer robots imminent warns Musk](#)
- ☐ [Armchair assassins enter ethical minefield](#)

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Finding information | Working with information

Source: ☐ Book ☒ Website ☐ Magazine ☐ Other: _____

Author: The Day News & Media Ltd (Corporate Author) **Title of article:** _____

Date Published: _____ **Name of Website:** The Day / The Day Explorer (delete as appropriate) _____

URL: <https://theday.co.uk> / <https://explorer.theday.co.uk> (delete as appropriate)

What information have I found?

You can either copy out the information word for word (quote it), making sure you use quotation marks ("..."), or write it in your own words (paraphrase).

What ideas does this information give me for my imaginary world?

Make some suggestions for an imaginary world in the future, based on the ideas in the article about our world today.

Source: ☐ Book ☒ Website ☐ Magazine ☐ Other: _____

Author: The Day News & Media Ltd (Corporate Author) _____

Title of article: _____

Date Published: _____

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Constructing my toolkit: literary techniques



If you were going to build a house you would put together a **toolkit** first – now you are going to use the work you have done this term to put together a '**literary toolkit**' to help you to write your Science Fiction opening.

Think about the work you have done on Science Fiction novels. Use your class notes to help you.

Language: How did the authors build tension through their choice of *words*? Give examples.

Think about: about the particular words and phrases they chose, and also how they worked together.

Tool	Example from an opening you have studied (which book?)
<i>e.g. simile</i>	<i>"It felt as if her heart would burst." (Floodland)</i>

Structure: How did the authors build tension through the *structure* of their opening? Give examples.

Think about: what the author did and didn't tell you (and when), the sentence structure (short? long? dialogue?), why they chose to start their story at that point and whose perspective the story was told from.

Tool	Example from an opening you have studied (which book?)
<i>e.g. Leaving out important information</i>	<i>"This is the day of the reaping". Doesn't explain what "the reaping" is until much later. (The Hunger Games)</i>



Now that you have your tools – it's time to go on to construct your world!

Constructing my world

Your task will be to write the opening for a Science Fiction story. To do this well, you will need to have a clear picture of the world you are setting the story in.

In what ways has technology made my fictional world different from our world today?	
Today	In my fictional world
What does my world look like?	
Where is my story set? (try to use somewhere you know – the best fiction comes from prior knowledge. Think about the postcard you wrote...)	
When is my story set? (past or future? How far in the future?)	
Who is there? (characters)	
List things that characters might see, hear, touch, smell or taste that signal to the reader that the world is different. Think about the adjectives you might use.	

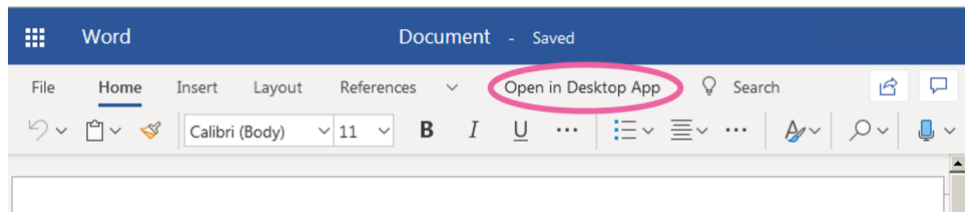
Expressing my ideas

Use everything you have done so far to help you to write the **opening of a new dystopian, or utopian, novel**.

- This could be a description of your world, imagining that you are there and describing the scene around you;
- It could be more active, with the action taking place within your imagined world.
- It should include reference to the technology you read about and the part that it is playing in the world.

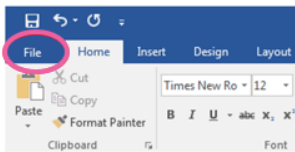
Setting up my document

1. Open Word
2. If you have opened Word Online, rather than the Word application, click on “Open in Desktop App” on the top ribbon

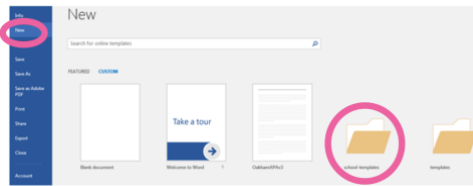


3. Open the *Academic Writing Template* by choosing:

File ->



New->

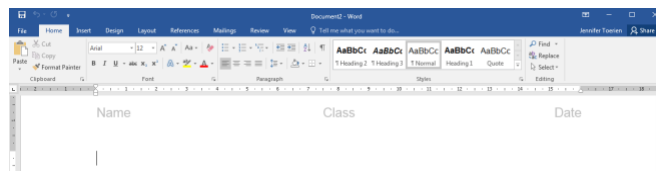


School Templates->

Academic Writing Template



4. Double click in the header and add your name, date and class



Saving my work

5. **Before** you start typing, save your document in the English folder in your Work Drop Box [W:\English](#)
6. Give it a sensible name, like *Science Fiction Opening DRAFT 1*



Print out your first
draft and stick or
staple it here

Redrafting: Using the techniques we have learnt this term in my writing



Now that you have written a first draft, work with a partner to improve it. Give your workbook to your partner and try to find examples of the techniques you have been studying in each other's work. Fill in the page below **in your partner's workbook**. Refer back

Name of person **commenting** on this opening: _____

Language: How did your partner build tension through their choice of *words*? Give examples.

Think about: about the particular words and phrases they chose, and also how they worked together.

Tool	Example from this opening

Structure: How did your partner build tension through the *structure* of their opening? Give examples.

Think about: what they did and didn't tell you (and when), the sentence structure (short? long? dialogue?), why they chose to start their story at that point and whose perspective the story was told from.

Tool	Example from this opening

General comments: (to be completed by the person **commenting** on the opening)

I thought this worked really well in your first draft....
I think your next draft would be even better if...

Now give your comments back to the person who **wrote** the opening

Planning my next draft (to be completed by the person who **wrote** the opening)

What worked well in my first draft?

How can I make my second draft even better? *(you may not have something for each heading. Give examples)*

Things to **add**: *(e.g. Use more adjectives, such as...)*

Things to **change**: *(e.g. Include some shorter sentences, for example...)*

Things to **take out**: *(e.g. Don't tell the reader ... so early in the story)*



Ready to improve your work?

Use all the feedback you have been given to make the next draft even better.
Resave your document as *Science Fiction Opening DRAFT 2* and work on improving it.

Print out your second
draft and stick or
staple it here

Reflecting on the Unit



Did **connecting** what *might* happen in my opening with the world I *already* know make it easier to imagine and describe?

☐ Much easier

☐ A bit easier

☐ Made no difference

Explain and/or give an example



Did the questions my group **wondered** about **before** we started reading the articles give me ideas about what I wanted to look for in the articles?

☐ Lots of ideas

☐ Some ideas

☐ Made no difference

Explain and/or give an example



Did the articles I read during my **investigation** help to give me any ideas for my opening, and/or help me to imagine it more clearly?

☐ Helped a lot

☐ Helped a bit

☐ Made no difference

Explain and/or give an example



Did the time I spent **constructing** my literary toolkit **before** I started to write help me to remember to use what I had learnt from other writers this term in my own writing?

☐ Helped a lot

☐ Helped a bit

☐ Made no difference

Explain and/or give an example



Did the time I spent **constructing** my world **before** I started to write make it easier to write my first draft?

☐ Much easier

☐ A bit easier

☐ Made no difference

Explain and/or give an example



Did the feedback my partner gave me help me to make my second draft better than my first?

☐ Helped a lot

☐ Helped a bit

☐ Made no difference

Explain and/or give an example



Do you think working through the **FOSIL Cycle** helped you to write a better opening than if you had just written it in the first lesson?

☐ Helped a lot

☐ Helped a bit

☐ Made no difference

Explain and/or give an example

Turn over to reflect on your own learning...



Reflecting on my learning



Things to think about:

- the opening I produced (*What was good about it? What could I do even better next time?*)
- the work I did to produce it (*Did I make good use of my time? What might I do differently next time?*)
- what I think I learnt from this Inquiry that might help me in the future.

What went well?

What could I do even better next time?

What do you think?

REFLECT

You were asked to write an opening for a *dystopian* story but, given all you have read, do you think the future will be better or worse than the present (or a bit of both)? Why?