



PENS *Against* **POVERTY**

WEBQUEST ACTIVITY BOOK FOR YEAR 3-6



About Pens Against Poverty

The Pens Against Poverty Schools Writing Competition that encourages schools, teachers and students to become educated in the important issues of poverty and homelessness in our communities in Australia, while developing unique creative voices through writing.

How To Use This Webquest Activity Book

This Webquest has been prepared for Year 3-6 students as an extended learning activity following the curriculum resources for Year 3-6 teachers.

To send your completed webquest and receive a small prize, you must do the following:

Print this booklet, completed in your handwriting and signed by your teacher or parent on the last page. Only hard copy entries with all sections completed will be accepted. Make sure to keep your own copy as submissions can't be returned. Prizes will be sent to students via their school address.

Note from the National Director

I founded this competition in 2015, as a way to connect the young writers in my class with big ideas that matter.

Children and young people have a way of coming to subjects adults feel apprehensive about, in thoroughly fresh and brave ways that teach us something new. That is why it exciting to read your entries each year.

This webquest is designed to help you connect with those big ideas in a meaningful way, and to create your own unique way of expressing a response in story or poetry (or both).

Maybe you will write to express your raw emotions about the confronting statistics?

Maybe you will channel your feelings into a persuasive poem?

Perhaps you will write imaginatively and with compassion from the position of a homeless person, recognising that anyone can be homeless, and no one gets used to it.

With writers contributing from all over the country, my hope is that this year, we will have many young people grappling with these important themes in original and deeply-felt ways.

Our judges this year are all authors and share a passion for the aims of this competition. They look forward to reading your entries. Good luck!

Katherine Halcrow



Katherine Halcrow
National Director, Pens Against Poverty

A 'Research and Write' Webquest

The Basics

This webquest is in preparation for Anti-Poverty Week in October, and the Pens Against Poverty Writing competition is a part of that. To familiarise, yourself with the competition, take a look at the Pens Against Poverty and local Anglicare websites.

This webquest has 4 mini-quests. Each quest is worth 25 points to get you to 100 total by the end.

Each webquest includes a creative writing component offline in response to what you have discovered.

Once you have finished the webquest, you can either submit to you teacher, or to receive a certificate and small gift send by post only:

Pens Against Poverty Webquest
PO Box 4093
Ainslie ACT 2602

The Criteria

The judges for the Pens Against Poverty competition will determine the winners based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates empathy and humanity through creative writing.
- Creative treatment of the competition theme.
- Effective control of language to communicate meaning.

What you need

Internet or Library Access

The local library is an excellent resource and is mainly free to use. Use it to access books, magazines and resources to help you understand more about poverty. Librarians are usually very helpful. Otherwise, you can also access the websites to the left.

Creative Writing Journal

A creative writing journal is a key part of this unit. You can start drafting some initial ideas that could be used for your story or poem. In your journal, you can start to develop ideas, to be used toward your final polished piece of writing.

A pen or pencil

It's great to write, really write, not just on a laptop. Then you can go out into the bush, sit in the middle on the city, anywhere, and be inspired. So, get a pen. Get a nice one, that feels comfortable to use.

Website Links

Pens Against Poverty

pensagainstpoverity.org

Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT

www.anglicare.com.au

Anglicare WA

www.anglicarewa.org.au

Anglicare Vic

www.anglicarevic.org.au

Anglicare Tasmania

www.anglicare-tas.org.au

Anglicare SA

www.anglicaresa.com.au

St Barts (WA)

stbarts.org.au

Samaritans (Newcastle/Hunter Region of NSW)

www.samaritans.org.au

Ac.care (Mount Gambier Region of SA)

www.accare.org.au

Anti-Poverty Week

www.antipovertyweek.org.au

Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS)

https://acoss.org.au/images/uploads/338_Poverty_Factsheet.pdf



"First you need to feel something; you need to empathize with people and with the environment around you. Then the words will naturally come."

Pens Against Poverty judge, and award-winning author, Jackie French. Pictured above.

1

WEBQUEST ONE: POVERTY IS...



The graphic above is from the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS). Visit the ACOSS website and answer the questions below **in your own words**.

https://acoss.org.au/images/uploads/338_Poverty_Factsheet.pdf

Answer the questions below:

- 1) What is poverty? _____
- 2) Who lives in poverty? _____
- 3) What causes poverty? _____
- 4) How can poverty be reduced? _____



2

WEBQUEST TWO: THE EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Research further to dig deeper.

What is it like to be homeless?

Using the library or online resources, find one of each that help you to understand homelessness (especially, in Australia):

1. A news report
2. A poem
3. A novel or short story
4. A video story or interview

To inspire you, and get you started we've included one of each. Find your own and then write down the references or web link to the ones you have found in the table below.

What's it like to be homeless?	Examples	Your own
A news report	https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/16/more-than-three-million-australians-living-in-poverty-across-report-reveals	
A poem	https://borgenproject.org/4-poems-about-poverty/	
A novel or short story	<i>Somewhere around the Corner</i> by Jackie French	
A video or interview	From ABC, The Drum https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InXUJt02vQM	

WEBQUEST TWO CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

WEBQUEST TWO CONT.

Step inside.

This is a short writing exercise to do after completing 'The experience of homelessness...'

Step inside the picture.

- What do you see?
- What can you hear?
- What do you smell?
- How do you feel?
- What are your concerns, hopes, dreams?

Image credit: 'More than 3 million Australians living in poverty' by Gareth Hutchins (The Guardian)

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/16/more-than-three-million-australians-living-in-poverty-across-report-reveals>



Answer the questions below:

1) What do you see? _____

2) What can you hear? _____

3) What do you smell? _____

4) How do you feel? _____

5) What are your concerns? _____

6) What are your hopes and dreams? _____



3

WEBQUEST THREE: WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT POVERTY

Watch.

Watch ACT 2021 Young Australian of the Year, Tara Maclelland speak on the ABC then answer the questions on the right.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-09/2021-young-australian-of-the-year-finalists/13036552>



Answer the questions below:

1) According to Tara, what is homelessness?

2) What does Tara do? _____

Read.

Read poems about poverty here >> <https://borgenproject.org/4-poems-about-poverty/>

Each poem addresses poverty from a very different perspective, time, place and circumstance.

Choose one you like and respond to the following questions.

List 5 or 10 key words throughout the poem that evoke an emotion:

Poets often use short lines, rhyme, rhythm, repetition and imagery to make it memorable and to connect with our emotions.

What tools has the writer used in the poem?

Experiment with similar strategies in your own poem about poverty.

Feel free to borrow the structure of the poem and experiment with it to make it your own.

Reflect on what you've learned so far.

Where would you place the following statements, from what you have learned so far. Place each statement on the continuum.

TRUE	Poverty affects very few people in Australia	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	Poverty means you have no food and no money	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	Poverty only affects people who have no job	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	All homeless people live outside on the streets	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	Homeless people are usually very old	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	Homeless people have always been homeless	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	No homeless people live in my suburb	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	Very few children in Australia are homeless (less than 1 in 100)	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	It is really obvious that someone is homeless	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE
TRUE	Homelessness is something no one can do anything about	SOMETIMES TRUE	UNTRUE



4

WEBQUEST FOUR: IMAGINING STORIES DRAWN FROM REALITY

Writing is a form of action. When you write for Pens Against Poverty, there is the opportunity to bring together not only your knowledge and learning, but your empathy and imagination.

When you see something unjust in the world, you are activating your empathy. When you make the decision not to allow that sense of injustice to be a fleeting thought, you develop a principled mindset. When you decide it is important and you can't look away, you are taking another step toward further understanding.

When you are open to learning more, you are more likely to listen, to learn, and to look more deeply for the answers. You become an inquirer. When you see the scale and enormity of the problem, but also the hope that there is much we can do, you can become a powerful communicator.

If you are looking to write a short story and may be feeling a bit stuck, look to one of Pens Against Poverty competition's judges for some tips here:

<https://www.jackiefrench.com/copy-of-how-to-get-your-novel>

In a few of your own words summarise how Jackie says you can go about writing a story:

STEP ONE: _____

STEP TWO: _____

STEP THREE: _____

STEP FOUR: _____

STEP FIVE: _____

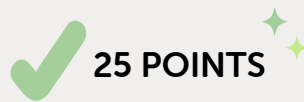
Mission Statements

Mission statements help us set our direction and purpose. Read about the mission statement by the Pens Against Poverty host in your region.

If you need more ideas, check an organisation from another region or state (see the list on page 15).

Write your own Mission Statement

Write a shared mission statement you think all Australians could adopt to relieve and end poverty and homelessness?



BONUS ACTIVITY: HOPE

What is being done (and can be done) about homelessness and poverty?

Look at each website below and list examples from the websites about what actions are being taken to help people experiencing poverty.

1) <https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/anti-poverty-week/10529584>

2) <https://www.acoss.org.au/a-future-for-all-children/>

3) <https://www.anglicare.com.au/services/get-involved/volunteer/>

4) Find another website from a Pens Against Poverty host (see list page 15) about solutions to poverty in Australia.

The problem of poverty can be daunting. But change start with small actions by lots of people

After completing the activity on the left, write down some more ways you think Australians can help to make change.





You’ve completed the Pens Against Poverty Webquest.

If you’ve completed all 125 points on your own, you’ll eligible for a certificate and small prize.

Complete the form below and send your work to:

Pens Against Poverty Webquest
PO Box 4093
Ainslie ACT 2602

Student Name:			
Student Year:			
School Name:			
School Address:			
Teacher* Name:			
Teacher* Signature:		Date:	

**parent name/signature if not submitted by a teacher*

**THANK YOU
FOR
PARTICIPATING!**



To find out more about Pens Against Poverty, visit

WWW.PENSAGAINSTPOVERTY.ORG

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