

Essay 3 Prewriting

Step One: Decide what your focus is. You can narrow your focus by looking at just one or more of the following categories in Orwell's period and our own:

- Homelessness
- Low-wage work/The working poor
- Causes of poverty
- Effects/consequences of poverty for individuals or communities.
- Solutions to the problem of poverty

Step Two: Review your notes and reading responses related to *Down & Out*. Be thinking about important similarities or differences between poverty in Orwell's context and poverty in our own.

Step Three: Draw up a simple chart to organize your ideas.

Orwell's World	Contemporary US
Poverty is caused by x →	Poverty is also caused by x today
Poverty is caused by y →	Poverty is caused by y today as well
Poverty could be solved by z →	That solution wouldn't work today because...

Step Four: Come up with a **preliminary thesis statement**. Summarize the key differences and/or similarities you'll be exploring in your essay.

"While poverty in these two periods has nearly identical causes—x and y—poverty in the two contexts requires very different solutions"

Step Five: Identify at least three quotes/passages from *Down & Out* you'll be using to illustrate your thesis. (You can write down the quotes, or just the page and paragraph numbers.)

Step Six: Explore ideas for the conclusion:

- If poverty is the **same** in the two contexts, **WHY?** Why has our much more advanced society **failed** to change the conditions of poverty that existed almost a century ago? Are there some aspects of poverty that will **always** exist?
- If poverty is **different** in the two contexts, **WHY?** How do you account for any progress we've made? What in our history, government, or culture has improved the circumstances of poverty or otherwise changed them?
- What can you tell about the **values, ideologies, or circumstances** of these two cultures based on how they respond to poverty?