

Nelson English Usage

Digital resources for the Australian Curriculum

Write or Die by Dr Wicked: **Fictional biography**

Dr Wicked's **Write or Die** creative writing lab is a tool that encourages writing and punishes procrastination. In this worksheet, you will use Write or Die to create a piece of fictional biography on a topic that you've selected from the list below or that your teacher has given you. You will need to do some research for this piece of writing. One or two classes should be enough time to gather information. If you run out of time in class, complete the task as homework.

Choose two or three people that you know outside of school and write a story about them and yourself. Although you should try to reflect their real personalities, you have the freedom to fictionalise everything else to suit the story, such as how or whether they know each other, their jobs or ages and where they live.

Fictional biography: 500–700 words

Suggested plots:

- A murder mystery set in your nearest capital city in the 1950s, with you as either the culprit or the detective
- A science-fiction fantasy set on the rediscovered city of Atlantis, 350 years in the future, where the very few humans left on Earth are hiding out from an unknown predator
- A teen slasher-style story, taking its cues from any/all of the following: *Wolf Creek*, the *Scream* movie franchise, *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* or the *Saw* movie franchise
- A haunted-house horror story, where you are haunted by a poltergeist, or are the poltergeist yourself
- A vampire story, where you wake up to discover you are a vampire and are being held captive by your friends-turned-enemies, so that you do not bite anyone
- An 'underdog' story, where you and your friends are star athletes who have had a bad season with terrible performances, and you are struggling to make a comeback.

Instructions

- 1 After choosing a plot, do some research. This is especially important for anything that is set in the past or inspired by other stories. This should take you one or two classes to complete. Do not use anyone else's material in your story.
- 2 Write an outline for the story in the boxes below. You will use these as prompts when you are using Write or Die.

In writing your outline, you should consider things like:

- Who is the hero in your story?
- Who is the villain in your story?
- Will your story have a happy or sad ending?
- Will it have humour in it?
- What kind of language will you use? For example, in *The Dame*, the student has used language similar to that of detective stories from the 1950s.
- How similar will the characters of your friends be to who they are in real life?
- What will be the most exciting or tense moment in your story?
- Will you write your story in first, third or even second person?
- Will you use present or past tense?
- Should your story use formal writing, or will it be casual? (It should match the plot appropriately.)
- Do you need to research anything in particular? For instance, in *The Dame*, the student had to research guns in the 1950s, the year colour photography became mainstream, and uses for origami, as well as the appropriate vocabulary.

Plot

Title

Characters

My role in the story

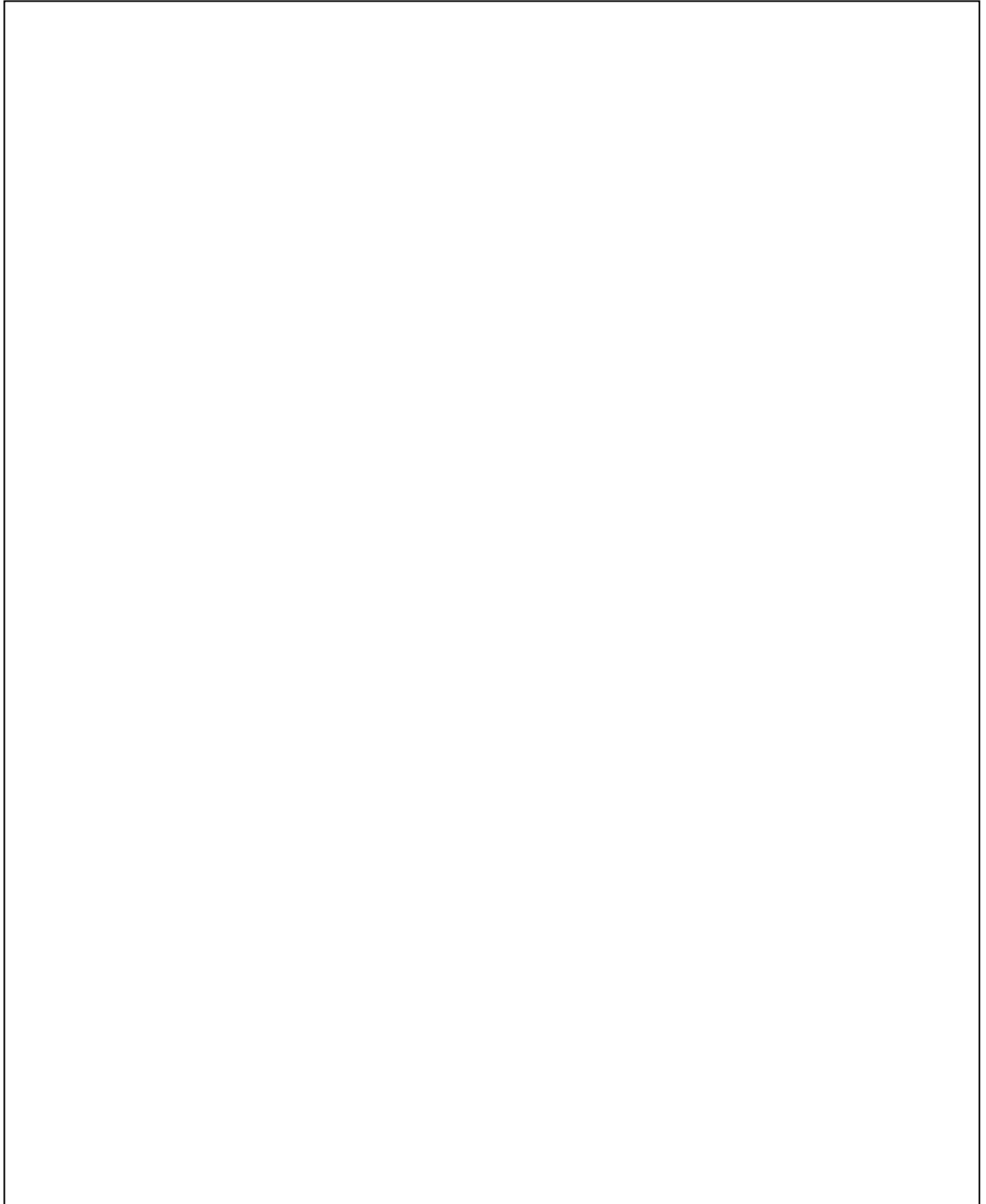
Story arc (what will actually happen in the story)

Ideas for the beginning of the story

Ideas for the conclusion of the story

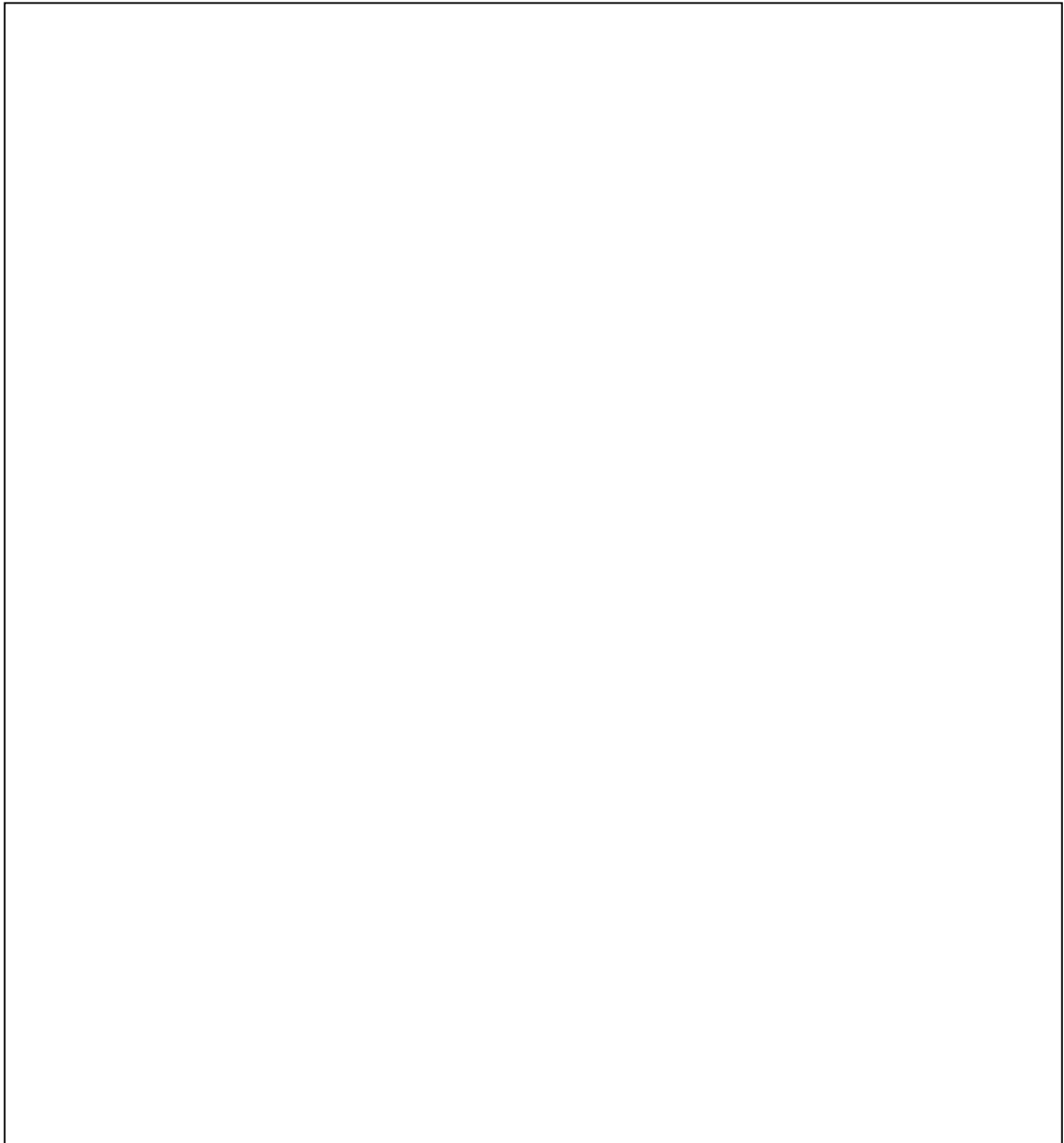
Any other notes and ideas

- 3 Visit the [Write or die website](#) and try it for free. If you want to use the longer times in this activity you'll need to go to the old version, [here](#), and scroll down to the web app.
- 4 To begin, key 600 into the **Word Goal** box, and select 48 min from the **Time Goal** dropdown. Under **Consequences**, select Normal mode, and under **Grace Period**, select Strict.
- 5 Quickly re-read your outline as completed above and on the previous page, then, on Write or Die, click 'Write!'
- 6 Start typing the first part of your story into the page that opens. It will keep track of your word count and will alert you when you are writing too slowly.
- 7 Do not worry too much at this stage if you are writing haphazardly. This first draft is simply about getting you to write.
- 8 When you are finished, select all of the text in the box (CTRL+A for Windows, CTRL+Apple for Mac), and then copy it. Paste it in the textbox on the next page, then save this file:

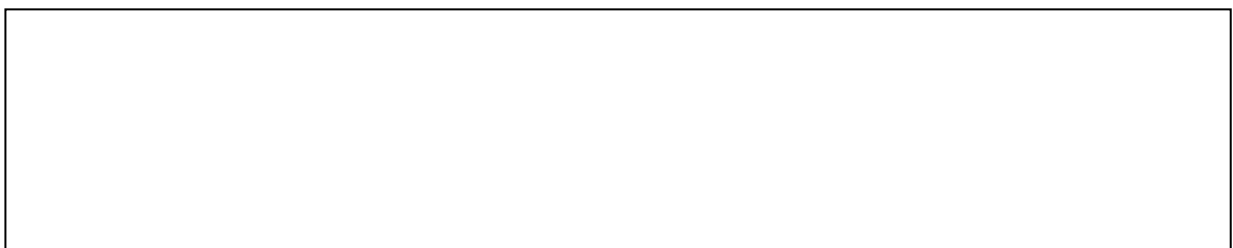


9 Go back to the Write or Die page, and click **Done** in the top right-hand corner.

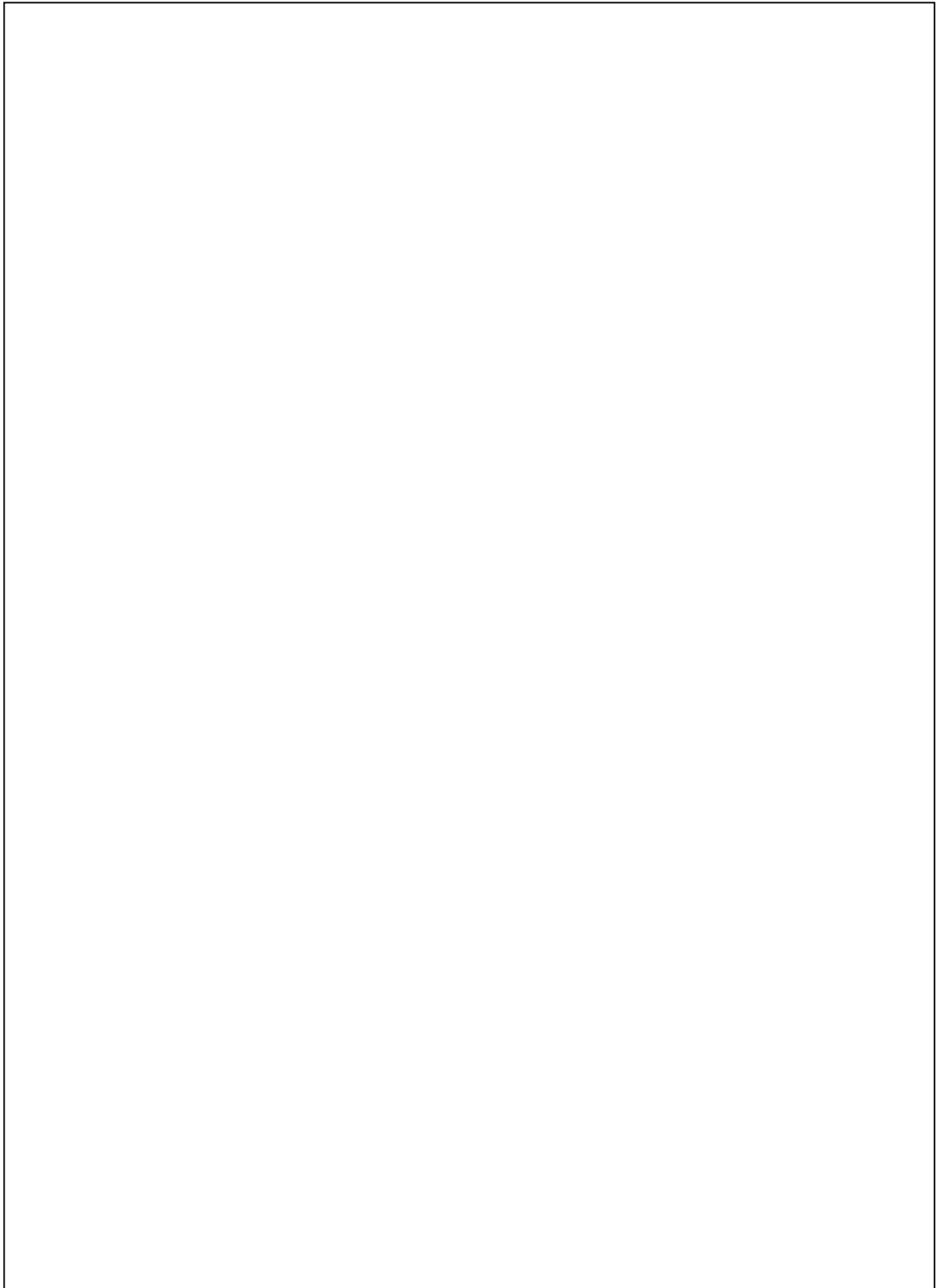
10 During your next class, repeat steps 3–9 to write the second part of your story, but with 800 words and Kamikaze Mode. You may increase your time to 1 hour if necessary. Paste the second part here, and save this file again:



11 Read both parts and compare them against your outline. Make notes if needed. Type your comparison notes here:



12 Go back to Write or Die to complete the last part of the story. This time, your settings should be 1000 words, 2 hours, Kamikaze Mode and Evil. You'll probably have to do this step as homework. Paste your final draft here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for pasting the final draft of the story. The box occupies most of the page's vertical space.

13 How long did it take you to write your final copy?

I wrote words in minutes.

14 Save this file, making sure that it contains all of your drafts, outlines and notes, and submit it to your teacher.

Teacher comments