Snippets of the Future

A micro sci-fi writing project for students, about what we envision for the future of Singapore.

The project is organised by Eastern Wood, commissioned by Arts House Limited for the Singapore Writers Festival 2025.

Organised by

SINGAPORE WRITERS FESTIVAL
7 – 16 NOV 2025

ARTS HOUSE LIMITED

Commissioned by

NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

Supported by

mccy
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Theme:

Shape of Things to Come

As we celebrate Singapore's 60th year of independence (SG60), we look towards the future with hope and cautious optimism, while being informed by our present and our past. Going forward, we embrace uncertainty and change as a part of our continuing journey of discovery.

ABOUT SINGAPORE WRITERS FESTIVAL (SWF)

The Singapore Writers Festival, one of Asia's premier literary events, started in 1986 as a biennial festival. Now organised by Arts House Limited, SWF is a highly anticipated event on the cultural calendar, presenting the world's major literary talents to Singaporeans while shining a spotlight on homegrown and Southeast Asian creative talents.

Over the years, the Festival has evolved into a vibrant gathering for writers, academics, and thinkers, offering a diverse array of panel discussions, workshops, lectures, and performances. It is one of the few multi-lingual literary festivals in the world, celebrating the written and spoken word in Singapore's official languages – English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil.

Read more about SWF here: https://singaporewritersfestival.com/

ABOUT ARTS HOUSE LIMTED

ARTS HOUSE LIMITED

Arts House Limited (AHL) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to enriching lives through the arts. The cultural place manager of Singapore's Civic District, AHL also manages two key national monuments - The Arts House and the Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall and runs performing arts space Drama Centre as well as the Goodman Arts Centre, Stamford Arts Centre and Aliwal Arts Centre which are creative enclaves for artists, arts groups and creative businesses.

Read more about AHL here:
https://artshouselimited.sg/

ABOUT EASTERN WOOD

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Eastern Wood (异事悟) operates as a hybrid literary agency and publishing studio in Singapore. The agency's role lies in selecting, editing, and representing high-quality speculative fiction from China, with a focus on global dissemination. Eastern Wood aims to connect with the local Singaporean sci-fi/literature community through collaborations and events, as well as to encourage more people to read and write sci-fi.

Read more about Eastern Wood here:
https://www.easternwood.co/

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Event Guidelines

There are five topics available, including:
General, Food, Ageing Society, Education, and Transport.

For specific prompts, see slide 7 onwards.

Word count limit

- The entry should not be more than 200 words. Accepted styles include:
    - Two-sentence story
    - Dribble (exactly 50 words)
    - Drabble (exactly 100 words)
    - Microfiction (not more than 200 words).

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Event Guidelines

Submit by: 31 August 2025, 11.59pm

Prizes & Perks:
- Selected entries will be featured at an installation during Singapore Writers Festival 2025 (from 7 –16 Nov).
- The first 3 schools with a minimum of 50 submissions will receive:
  - 20 complimentary SWF 2025 Youth Passes
  - 20% off any additional Youth Passes purchased*

*_Terms & conditions_ apply.

Content Guidelines

1. The story must be **based in Singapore**.
2. It should ideally include **sci-fi elements** and be **set in the future**. Participants may write about time travelling to the past/present or vice versa.
3. Please note that we do not accept any works that promotes any form of discrimination, including towards any nationality, religion, gender, or race.

Need some examples?

Take a look at easternwood.co/future-365 to see what our authors have been writing! P.S. Our Chinese editors observed that 80% of the entries from our Chinese authors are technologically pessimistic, so we're excited to see what Singaporean writers feel about the technology of the future!

Topic: General

** These are sample prompts to get the ideas going, feel free to write outside of these prompts!

1. How will a futuristic Singapore look like?

Example: Describe the future sceneries of Singapore through a holographic projection of the entire island. Perhaps the whole of SG is connected underground and one can walk from East to West without having to be in the rain or shine.

2. How will our lifestyles have changed?

Example: The invention of AI pets and AI butlers bringing more convenience to our lives.

3. Write about the Singaporean culture of the future.

Consider the changes of Singlish and our dialects, our weekend plans, the topics of conversations about army, BTO, and all Singaporean traits.

Topic: Food

*** These are sample prompts to get the ideas going, feel free to write outside of these prompts!*

1. What are we eating in the future?

Example: Invention of vitamin pills in the flavour of Nasi Lemak or Laksa, each pill fulfills the calorie intake of one meal.

2. How would local food production have developed?

The 30 by 30 goal: will we hit 30% of locally produced food by 2030? What innovative ways of food production can be done aside from vertical farms and lab-grown meat?

3. Write about our F&B sector of the future.

Example: Hawker stalls are now run by AI. Everyone would own a private AI chef. There is a food simulation restaurant where people's brain are tricked into eating their favourite unhealthy food when they are actually eating salad.

Topic: Ageing Society

** These are sample prompts to get the ideas going, feel free to write outside of these prompts!

1. Write about new elderly-assisting technologies.

Example: Synthetic limbs, robotic parts, sensor detecting rubber walls to cushion the elderly in case of fall.

2. Write about the shift in perception towards old age and death.

Will 3-Gen flats increase or decrease? Do young people still follow funeral rites?
Maybe we can register our 'ashes' in the cloud and save a digital version of ourselves?

3. Write about the ageing of today's youth.

Example: SingPass verification is now done via brainwaves, but the new elderly are only familiar with verifying via the phone's app; mobile phones are now outdated.

Topic: Education

*** These are sample prompts to get the ideas going, feel free to write outside of these prompts!*

1. Will schools and teachers be replaced by tech and AI?

Example: Every student now owns a pair of AR headset to attend classes virtually; nobody has to attend physical clases anymore.

2. Can technology speed up the educational process?

Example: Education chips are implanted into every child; children will be able to complete their basic education and graduate by the age of 7.

3. Write about unique SG student's culture.

Example: Instead of going to a library/cafe, students enter a "mugging game simulation" where they enter a digital space with their friends to revise, and each topic completed grants rewards similar to completing a game's mission.

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Topic: Transport

*** These are sample prompts to get the ideas going, feel free to write outside of these prompts!*

1. What would be some new features to the MRT system with the expansion of lines?

Example: Taking a new train and suddenly gets transported into the past/future.

2. How much further will our transport system develop?

Example: Every housing unit is registered in the transmission network. We can key in the coordinates and be transported to wherever we want [in the country] in a few seconds.

3. Write about a common occurrence in public transport that will continue to exist in the future.

Submission

Individual submissions:
https://www.easternwood.co/swf2025-snippets-of-the-future/

For bulk submissions, please submit the entries to hello@easternwood.co
in a Google/Excel sheet with the following format:

No.	Prefix	Name	Age	Pen Name (if any)	Email Address	Name of School/Educational Institution	Theme	Total Word Count	Title of Submission	Submission
1	Ms	ruxuan	23	NA	ruxuan@easternwood.co	Eastern Wood	General	7	Sample	This is a sample submission for SWF2025.

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Contact

For enquiries relating to *Snippets of the Future,* please contact
hello@easternwood.co

For all other enquiries, please contact swfticketing@artshouse.sg

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