Make 3 Lists

One of the best ways to brainstorm creative writing ideas is by making lists, then seeing how different items on those lists clash or combine. Here are three lists to get you started.

* **Ten true events**: These events needn’t be “big” or “important”: just things that happened to you or someone you know, or items you read about in the news.
* **Ten characters**: These could be characters you’ve already worked with, people you’ve seen but never spoken to, family members, high school teachers, or even historical figures that fascinate you.
* **Ten settings**: These can be fictional places or real.
* **Five genres**: what are three genres you like and two that are new to you

Now, take one item from each list—one event, one character, and one setting—and use them to brainstorm a new story. What happens when you drop a character of your own into one of your settings? How would Harry Styles deal with a personal event you experienced personally in a fictional setting?