

Tips for writing according to George Orwell:

(taken from "Gotham Writers" website)

George Orwell has earned the right to be called one of the finer writers in the English language through such novels as *1984*, *Animal Farm*, and *Down and Out in Paris and London*, and essays like "Shooting an Elephant."



A scrupulous writer, in every sentence that he writes, will ask himself at least four questions, thus:

1. **What am I trying to say?**
2. **What words will express it?**
3. **What image or idiom will make it clearer?**
4. **Is this image fresh enough to have an effect?**

And he will probably ask himself two more:

1. **Could I put it more shortly?**
2. **Have I said anything that is avoidably ugly?**

One can often be in doubt about the effect of a word or a phrase, and one needs rules that one can rely on when instinct fails. I think the following rules will cover most cases:

1. **Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.**
2. **Never use a long word where a short one will do.**
3. **If it is possible to cut a word out, always cut it out.**
4. **Never use the passive where you can use the active.** ("I write poetry" is better than "I am writing poetry")
5. **Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.**
6. **Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.**

Other tips:

- Use strong verbs and nouns, not just great adjectives. Eg. "strut" instead of "walked"
- Don't rely on a thesaurus' as the meaning doesn't always match.
- Just write and then fix it later.

Possible Topics:

- "A love story to my....."
- Body parts and their significance
- Emotions and their imagery
- Abstract nouns- can you describe them using sensory words?
- Social issues- personify them? Extend the metaphor? Sensory words?
- Personal issues. Attack them!

Marking for Spoken Word/This I Believe/Rant

Presenter name: _____

Grade: _____/10

Content	Exceeds 10/9	Fully Meets 8/7.5	Meets 7/6.5	Minimally or Does Not Meet 6/5
<p>Clearly chosen topic, uses blatant or inferred examples, uses Rant/This I Believe/Slam in the correct way.</p> <p>(Rant has solution, This I Believe is an essay with support, Spoken Word has imagery and figurative language)</p>	<p>Speaker consistently uses correct techniques for type of writing. Stays on topic.</p> <p>Writing is very creative, insightful and interesting.</p>	<p>Speaker usually uses correct techniques and stays on topic. Writing is creative and interesting.</p>	<p>Speaker sometimes uses the right techniques.</p> <p>May stray from topic.</p> <p>Writing is basic and fairly simple. Little insight</p>	<p>Speaker uses few writing techniques and often strays from their topic.</p> <p>Writing is too short or too simple.</p>
Voice	Effective	Moderately effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective
<p>Tone, pitch, level, speed, pause, etc.</p>	<p>Speaker consistently uses and varies voice techniques.</p>	<p>Speaker usually uses and varies voice techniques.</p>	<p>Speaker sometimes uses and varies voice techniques.</p>	<p>Speaker seldom uses and varies voice techniques.</p>
Body Language/	Effective	Moderately effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective
<p>Hand Gestures</p> <p>Moves around, uses whole body and/or hand gestures.</p>	<p>Speaker consistently uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking. No distracting mannerisms.</p>	<p>Speaker usually uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking. No distracting mannerisms.</p>	<p>Speaker sometimes uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking.</p> <p>Some distracting mannerisms.</p>	<p>Speaker seldom uses body language and/or hand gestures while speaking.</p> <p>Some distracting mannerisms.</p>
Presentation	Effective	Moderately effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective
<p>Good flow, maintains eye contact with audience, does not break from the presentation of their poem.</p> <p>Memorized. Within a reasonable time.</p>	<p>Speaker consistently maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and does not break from the presentation of their poem. Mostly memorized.</p> <p>Audience fully engaged.</p> <p>About 2-3 minutes.</p>	<p>Speaker usually maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and usually does not break from the presentation of their poem. Some memorization.</p> <p>Audience engaged.</p> <p>About 2-3 minutes.</p>	<p>Speaker sometimes maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and sometimes breaks from the presentation of their poem.</p> <p>No memorization.</p> <p>Some audience engagement.</p> <p>Too long or too short.</p>	<p>Speaker seldom maintains good flow, eye contact with audience, and often breaks from the presentation of their poem.</p> <p>No memorization.</p> <p>Some audience engagement.</p> <p>Too long or too short.</p>

