

# [An analysis of george orwell’s essay "why i write”](https://assignbuster.com/an-analysis-of-george-orwells-essay-why-i-write/)

In George Orwell’s essay “ Why I Write,” he gives his answer as to why he and other writers write. His essay follows many tactics described in Phillip Lopate’s essay “ The Art of the Personal Essay. ” For example, Orwell starts out his essay not by directly answering the question, but by simply stating that, ever since he was little, he knew that “ when [he] grew up [he] should be a writer” (Orwell). He then goes on to write about his childhood and his early connections with writing.

This follows Lopate’s statement that an essay tends to “ start out in a seemingly directionless or at least open manner,” and to “ hop onto a narrative possibility and let the storytelling momentum take it home” (Lopate). About halfway through his essay, after his narrative, Orwell begins directly discussing his topic, explaining that he believes that “ one can [not] assess a writer’s motives without knowing something of his early development”.

This is because Orwell feels that although a writer’s work is greatly affected by what is happening while he writes, in early life a writer acquires “ an emotional attitude from which he will never completely escape” (Orwell). Lopate describes a similar tactic, the digression, which a writer uses to “ wander off the point only to fulfill it” (Lopate).

Finally, in response to his question, Orwell presents not only one answer, but four: “ Sheer egoism,” Aesthetic enthusiasm,” “ Historical impulse,” and “ Political purpose” (Orwell), and, after defining each aspect, tells of their responsibilities for his motives. Orwell’s technique reflects Lopate’s description of an essayist needing to “ surround something” “ by coming at it from all angles” (Lopate). Through these examples Lopate’s account of the tactics used by an essayist are seen in George Orwell’s essay “ Why I Write. ”