**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

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