



Critical Feature Article

ATTITUDE RECTIFIED. DOUBLEPLUSGOOD.

AS 91475: WRITING PORTFOLIO - 6 CREDITS

3.4: PRODUCE A SELECTION OF FLUENT AND COHERENT WRITING WHICH DEVELOPS, SUSTAINS, AND STRUCTURES IDEAS



| Achievement | Achievement with Merit | Achievement with Excellence |
|--|--|---|
| Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas. | Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas and is convincing . | Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas and commands attention . |



doublethink

'dʌb(ə)lθɪŋk/

noun: doublethink; noun: double-think

The acceptance of contrary opinions or beliefs at the same time, especially as a result of political indoctrination.

Outline

This task is a culmination of our investigation into the satirical form over the last two centuries.

CENTRAL QUESTION

George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four is more than a work of fiction. It is a dire warning. Explore the means by which Orwell reaches through the decades and grabs us by the neck: what is he trying to tell us?

Preparation

RESEARCH

1. Make a decision about **what aspect** of the contemporary world you want to satirise in writing.
2. Identify **key facts** and supporting data that might illuminate this line of inquiry
3. **Read more satire** - be inspired by the work of others, and explore the technical frameworks the satirists have employed to achieve their best effects. Play with some satirist's techniques.

DRAFTING

4. Explore the use of the linguistic, **grammatical and figurative techniques** that are prevalent in satire:
 - Hyperbole, understatement, litotes, metaphor, incongruity
 - Complex sentences, periodic structures, run-on sentences
 - Develop an authorial 'voice', use features typical of speech
5. **Subvert a known form** - like a newspaper article, technical report or advertisement, using the features typical of these to undermine the reader's expectations. The intention of this piece is to give you the opportunity to take control of your reader's perceptions.
6. With focussed attention on the grammar, structure, language and form of your writing you can **subtly influence your reader** and their view on a subject of importance to you.



The Final Piece

SIZE

Once your initial research and preparation is completed, the final piece should be written in the form of a literary essay. While there is no specific word limit, making an effort to keep it to **800-1000 words** will allow you to keep your argument focussed.

CONDITIONS

The initial draft will be written in class over **4 periods** and then it will be parked for future development. You must use your online journals to complete the writing and some superficial feedback may be sought as part of the initial drafting process.

SCOPE

Your proficiency with spelling, grammar and punctuation will aid the clear and effective communication of your idea, as will conforming to a clear structure with your writing. Subversion of a known form will be assessed as a positive attribute of satirical piece.

ADVICE

You are advised to refer to the examples of satire that you have been exposed to as part of the genre study in order to refine your understanding of how such a piece can be constructed for effect.

Seek feedback from your teacher in the early stages of your drafting in order to ensure you are on the right track.



Exemplar

FRANKIE BOYLE

Trident

The introduction engages the reader through the parallel employment of personal pronouns and a 'conversational' tone, exemplified in the use of the dashes to express an irony.

The introduction establishes the argument and clearly takes a position: The re-investment in Trident is presented as a PR exercise for the UK Government.

Hyperbole and simile. Leaving the punch line to the end in a periodic structure.

Continuing of the judicious use of personal pronouns ('we', to include himself), then the irony of selecting everyday social norms as the defining features of British culture (Understatement)

Maintaining the comedic, periodic structure by concluding each paragraph with a punchline.

I wrote a joke the other day, along the lines of: "Our greatest fear is that we die alone – which is why I intend to take quite a few people with me." And it would be funnier, I suppose, if it didn't constitute Britain's actual policy on defence. It's hard to make a moral or strategic case for Trident, so its cheerleaders have resorted to metaphor. Trident, we're told, symbolises Britain's place in the world. Of course, I understand Cameron saying he thinks Britain is still a great country (talking something up is a good way to get the best price when you're selling it), but we don't actually have much sense of history, and don't really travel, so it seems odd that we're being told to spend hundreds of billions of pounds projecting a version of ourselves that we barely understand on to people we will never meet. Perhaps Trident is really a symbol of the era of late capitalism, where most things we buy are unnecessary to the point of ludicrousness. **Per-suading austerity Britain to spend billions on Trident is like convincing a tramp he needs a bazooka.**

What is the British way of life? What do we value? Daytime drinking; freedom of speech (for anybody who isn't joking); a big centre-forward who can hold the ball up; making drunken, sexual online threats to respected academics; hating people from a broadly similar town 30 miles away; watching strangers bake; watching someone we know fail; and whatever the opposite of reading a history book is. I'm not saying it's all bad, I'm just saying it doesn't justify heating up a 100 million civilians to a temperature where their shadows catch fire. Perhaps we need to face up to the fact that Britain is becoming a sort of redneck country that doesn't give a shit about education or health, but needs to have the latest weapons; the renewal of Trident casts Scotland as the wife who has given you one last chance, listening wearily to your story about how you've blown the benefits money on booby-trapping the driveway and a new sniper rifle.

[CONTINUE READING]

This extract is taken from a n article called "Trident", published in the Guardian by Frankie Boyle on May 17, 2016

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/17/britain-spend-billions-trident-government-cyber-attack>