

Structure

The Prince	Orwell Essays
Discursive	
Treatise	Essays
Shorter paragraphs	Longer paragraphs
26 chapters	Scant use of parts (England Your England)
Some narrative when describing history (Chapter 11 ¹)	Occasional narrative (Shooting an Elephant)
Each chapter deals with a focused topic	Sometimes comes across as unfocused, with no clear direction and a natural, but disorganized, flow of ideas (Writers and Leviathan ²). Flow feels like a conversation.

Purpose

The Prince	Orwell Essays
Inform thoroughly to create a wide base of knowledge for audience	Inform enough to support argument
Persuade for personal career gain	Persuade to personal ideology/opinion
Instructs those <i>in</i> power about how to act as a Prince	Writes to those <i>under</i> power about the nature of their political situation (Shooting an Elephant) and how they should act (Writers and Leviathan)
Calls Lorenzo de' Medici to action in Chapter 26 to drive foreigners out of Italy	Calls audience to action (Writers and Leviathan ³)

Tone

The Prince	Orwell Essays
Formal—addressed to one person (Dedication) ⁴	Conversational—Writes more generally to the public ⁵
Academic	Personal
Amoral	Has moral considerations (Shooting an Elephant)
Possibly satire ⁶	Sarcasm, irony, cynicism, political satire

1 Describes the Papacy, "Then came Alexander VI..."

2 Jumps into a discussion of left-wing ideology and its history in the 4th paragraph, when the point is to discuss the separation of ideology and writing

3 Calls upon them to isolate their lives in politics and their lives as writers

4 "And although I may consider this work unworthy of your countenance"

5 England Your England part 1: "Then the vastness of England swallows **you** up, and **you** lose for a while **your** feeling that the whole nation has a single identifiable character. Are there really such things as nations? Are we not forty-six million individuals, all different?"

Subjugated—flatters the Prince and puts himself down	
--	--

Language Features

The Prince	Orwell Essays
Personifies Fortune (Chapter 25) ⁷	Personifies Power (Shooting an Elephant ⁸)
Thorough discussion of history to support argument and defeat counterarguments (Chapter 4 ⁹)	Uses very recent and limited historical evidence to support argument (England Your England Part 1 ¹⁰)
Personal pronouns in a formal manner (Dedication ¹¹ , Chapter 25 ¹²)	Personal pronouns in an informal manner ¹³
	Rhetorical questions (Writers and Leviathan, ¹⁴ England Your England)
	Imagery (Shooting an Elephant ¹⁵ , England Your England ¹⁶)
Rule of 3 (Chapter 16 ¹⁷)	Listing (Writers and Leviathan ¹⁸)
Simile (Chapter 25 ¹⁹)	Simile (Shooting an Elephant ²⁰)

- 6 Chapter 7 discusses how to maintain power in certain principalities, and describes Duke Valentino's execution and display of a cruel minister as "barbaric". However, he later says that he "cannot blame" him, and that he had a "lofty spirit" and could not have acted otherwise. Could be a satirical commentary on the cruelty of politics.
- 7 "Nevertheless, not to extinguish our free will, I hold it to be true that Fortune is the arbiter of one-half of our actions,[*] but that **she** still leaves us to direct the other half, or perhaps a little less."
- 8 "But in falling he seemed for a moment to rise, for as his hind legs collapsed beneath him he seemed to tower upward like a huge rock toppling, his trunk reaching skyward like a tree"
- 9 Title of Chapter 4: "Why The Kingdom of Darius, Conquered by Alexander, Did Not Rebel Against The Successors of Alexander At His Death"
- 10 "Christianity and international Socialism are as weak as a straw in comparison with it. Hitler and Mussolini rose to power in their own countries very largely because they could grasp this fact and their opponents could not"
- 11 "And although I may consider this work unworthy of your countenance"
- 12 "Nevertheless, not to extinguish **our** free will, **I** hold it to be true that Fortune is the arbiter of one-half of **our** actions,[*] but that she still leaves **us** to direct the other half, or perhaps a little less."
- 13 First paragraph of Shooting and Elephant: "Theoretically—and secretly, of course—I was all for the Burmese and all against the British"
- 14 "Well, then what? Do **we** have to..."
- 15 "But in falling he seemed for a moment to rise, for as his hind legs collapsed beneath him he seemed to tower upward like a huge rock toppling, his trunk reaching skyward like a tree"
- 16 "[The goose-step] is simply an affirmation of naked power; contained in it, quite consciously and intentionally, is the vision of a boot crashing down on a face"
- 17 "[A prince] will be compelled in the end, if he wish to maintain the name of liberal, to unduly weigh down his people, and tax them, and do everything he can to get money"
- 18 "This is a political age. War, Fascism, concentration camps, rubber truncheons, atomic bombs, etc. are what we write about..."
- 19 "I compare her to one of those raging rivers, which when in flood overflows the plains, sweeping away trees and buildings, bearing away the soil from place to place; every-thing flies before it, all yield to its violence, without being able in any way to withstand it"—then follows an argument from analogy that, just like men build dikes to defend from floods, so too can they prepare for misfortune.
- 20 "But in falling he seemed for a moment to rise, for as his hind legs collapsed beneath him he seemed to tower upward like a huge rock toppling, his trunk reaching skyward like a tree"

	Emphasis occasionally done through capitalization (England Your England)
	Asides, em-dashes (Shooting an Elephant ²¹)
Direct, concise, lacking fluff	

Themes

Power

The Prince	Orwell Essays
Explore Power in politically tumultuous times, where the political landscape and nature of control was changing	
Stability is the goal, and it is achievable through strong centralized rule	Has concern for individual liberties

Politics

The Prince	Orwell Essays
Political realist	Political realist (Writers and Leviathan ²²)
Praises domestic ruler	Abhors the domestic government (Shooting an Elephant ²³)
Makes no statement on if absolute sovereignty is the ideal form of government	Afraid of the prospect of an absolute sovereign—disagrees with Hobbes

Content

Historical context & change over time

The Prince	Orwell Essays
Need to know the context of contemporary conflict to understand the authors' purposes	
Need to know the context of contemporary literature to understand how they were different (political realism)	
Provides knowledge of ancient history (Darius)	
Recent history assumed to be known (Queen of Naples ²⁴ , “Spaniard”)	Recent history assumed to be known (England Your England ²⁵)

21 First paragraph of Shooting and Elephant: "Theoretically—and secretly, of course—I was all for the Burmese and all against the British"

22 "The whole left-wing ideology, scientific and Utopian, was evolved by people who had no immediate prospect of attaining power"

23 First paragraph of Shooting and Elephant: "Theoretically—and secretly, of course—I was all for the Burmese and all against the British"

	Need to know history to understand metaphor (Shooting an Elephant ²⁶)
Language has changed ("Virtuous", "Blame" ²⁷)	Language has changed, but less so (Shooting an Elephant ²⁸)

24 Less detailed and more dramatic: "...she was forced to throw herself into the arms of the King of Aragon"

25 "As I write, highly civilized human beings are flying overhead, trying to kill me."

26 "But in falling he seemed for a moment to rise, for as his hind legs collapsed beneath him he seemed to tower upward like a huge rock toppling, his trunk reaching skyward like a tree"

27 Chapter 7: Depending on interpretation, Machiavelli is either amoral or immoral: "When all the actions of the duke are recalled, I do not know how to **blame** him"

28 "Burma"