



The definition of writing is the act or art of forming visible letter or characters, but writing has a much deeper meaning and purpose to those who actually write. There are many different types of authors around the world, and they all write for various reasons. It’s true, most people don’t like to be categorized, but all writing fits into three categories. Authors write because of aesthetic enthusiasm, because of sheer egoism, and because it is their escape from reality.

One of the many reasons authors write is to show their enthusiastic attitudes towards the beauty of words. According to, “Why I Write” by George Orwell, “Perception of beauty in the external world, or, on the other hand, in words and their right arrangement.” (Orwell 2) This quote conveys that authors write because they find words beautiful. The quote explains that the act of writing is a beautiful experience, and they write because they have a simple appreciation for words and their beauty. This reason applies to Joan Didion when she states, “I can feel my skirt damp and wrinkled on my legs. I can feel the asphalt stick to my sandals. I remember the big tail of a Pan American plane floating motionless down at the end of the tarmac. I remember the sound of a slot machine in the waiting room.” In this quote, Didion uses imagery to describe one of her memories. This is proof that Didion appreciates the beauty of words because if she didn’t, she could have refrained from using such descriptive language. Overall, appreciating the beauty of words is a trait that all writers have, whether they recognize it or not.

In addition, authors write only for their egotistical ways. The article “Why I Write” explains, “Desire to seem clever, to be talked about, to be remembered after death, to get your own back on the grown-ups who snubbed you in childhood…” (Orwell 2) This quote illustrates that authors write solely for their own benefit. They want people to acknowledge them and know who they are. According to Orwell, “Serious writers, I should say, are on the whole more vain and self centered than journalists, though less interested in money.” (Orwell 2) This quote explains that authors write because they want to be known for their pieces of art more than the average journalist. Orwell says that authors have an ego equivalent to that of a journalist.

Lakshmi Pratury believes authors write to leave behind memories. This is an example of sheer egoism because Orwell explains that one part of sheer egoism is “to be remembered after death.” This relates to Pratury’s reason for writing because authors leave behind memories so they are remembered by someone else. All authors have at least a small part of them that writes to fulfill their ego.

Furthermore, authors also write so they don’t drown in the complicated waters of reality. Ray Bradbury describes humans as the “tension-collecting animals in the world” (Bradbury). This quote conveys that authors write to release the tension they have received from facing reality. Bradbury refers to Nietsche’s famous quote, “We have art that we do not die of reality” (Nietzche). The quote emphasizes that authors use writing, painting, or different forms of art to escape the complicating life reality brings. Overall, authors write to release the tension they build up when facing reality.

Authors write for three, diverse reasons. Those reasons are because they appreciate the beauty of words, because of their own egotistical purposes, and because it is their escape from reality. This means that all writing fits into three categories. This matters because all authors need writing for different purposes. All authors have the urge to write, but the strength of that urge varies in every writer.