

Grammar and Style

USE APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

Huxley uses **formal language** that is appropriate for the seriousness of his topic and the sophistication of his argument. Here is an example from his essay:

For, consciously, or subconsciously, it is with deliberation that we do not know or fail to understand—because incomprehension allows us, with a good conscience, to evade unpleasant obligations and responsibilities, because ignorance is the best excuse for going on doing what one likes, but ought not, to do. (lines 25–28)

Note that the passage contains key elements of formal language, including complex vocabulary and sentence structure, and that Huxley does not use slang or contractions.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence using formal language. An example sentence has been done for you.

Example

Original: During a war, people in office never tell you both sides of the story.

Revised: In wartime, government officials rarely tell the public the whole truth.

1. In a time of war, it becomes important to manipulate words.

2. The government knows that the nation needs to support the cause, or you'll never win.

3. You know, people don't really want to know the whole truth.

4. Changing the way we use certain words helps point out who the enemy is and explains why we should attack them.

5. Sometimes it can be helpful to give out the wrong impression.

6. For instance, some of the truths about war are very horrible to your average Joe.

7. By misusing words, we shield everyone from the gross stuff related to fighting.
