My experience with writing and reading starts early in my life to the point where I almost cannot remember an absence of reading or writing, but it most likely at the age of four that I started this journey. At the age of four I was to be able to read and write before I started school with kindergarten. I have always distinctly remember at a tender age that my parents always strongly encouraged my exploration of reading and writing because they believed it was an important skill to have and ever since I learned, I continued. In my memory I have always had a love for reading, however, my relationship with writing has been more complex, although it has vastly improved since I was younger.

My history of writing literature begins with the first book I remember writing and illustrating “Have You Seen My T-rex”. Reflecting on this book I wonder if it would have been better if this book could have been forgotten or whether my first book should have been the prime example of copying an idea while making a different story. Today the book would seem to me like pure brilliance coming from a four year old but completely terrible otherwise and it most likely was. One thing I can recall from this book is that I had the idea of repetition and rhyme; when I could spell words correctly, down early on with nearly every page ending with the line “have you seen my t-rex”. In school I remember being able to go to the library before all of the other kids. I took full advantage of this opportunity and went up to the limit of and sometimes beyond what my color sticker was for my reading level. As school went on I took up a love for non-fiction literature and read these books like they were soon to be burned. Reading all of these
non-fiction stories fed my need for knowledge, but they did not work so well for reports that I had to write on books in school, so I made a compromise with my mother in which I would get at least one fiction book every time that I went to the library so I could do a report. I hated writing the reports, they were the symbol of the ending of one book and a drought of no reading while I wrote about what I had already finished enjoying, but alas I did them anyway and have prospered through them thanks to my mother.

My father encouraged my expeditions into the world of literature through other means however. Every time I read a book and could not understand I would ask him and his response was always to grab a dictionary and look it up. I made sure to only have to do this once per word or preferably less because I disliked having to stop reading to grab the dictionary just to understand a word. My father did help me to develop my vocabulary at an astounding rate so that I was capable of reading more difficult pieces of literature. My father also strongly encouraged me to diversify my base of books that I read including classics. I listened to these suggestions and soon found myself engrossed in the writings of the likes of those like Jules Verne of whom I have read six of his novels and started a second. I have not enjoyed every book I have read but each book has influenced me or has been memorable. One such experience is from struggling through "The Fellowship of the Ring" with the hobbits in the woods with the man named Tom for over two months before I finally skipped 10 pages and read the rest of the book in three days. I learned however that good writing is not based on how well you can write it but how you can portray and say it.

One statement that I can claim from my history of reading and writing is that I have learned to utilize different styles, tones, beginnings, conclusions and other elements for my writing. One piece of literature that stands out to me when I say this is "Call me Ishmael". It is a
simple way to introduce a novel that is written in the first person and is extremely effective possibly impart from its simplicity. It is a line that will make me remember “Moby Dick” for years for its brilliant beginning and not only because of how later the author explains the taste of clam chowder over the course of 10 pages. Through all these various works I have picked up some styles and tricks from various writers which brings me to my first reason for why I write.

1. Experimentation. I primarily write only when I am forced to for school, as I am now, or something similar but when I do I enjoy trying to see what I can improve upon and advance with while utilizing all that I have witnessed in others literature.

2. Communicate. Without language there is no means to communicate which would leave society in shambles, but even with language writing allows one to get their ideas out in a much more efficient way than word of mouth and less expensive way than an advertisement on TV or radio.

3. Power. My final and most substantial reasoning for writing and reading is power. In many places around the world people are craving education and would nearly kill to get their hands on a book so why should I not take full advantage of what is in front of me. Writing is almost all forms of communication so if you can write you can control others but if not you become the controlled.

I also however agree with Orwell that arrogance is a motivation to write. If you accomplish something you want to document it and be remembered through the ages for you accomplishments. I disagree with his aesthetic enthusiasm because I have not and have not met anyone who writes for the sound of the words, they control the words, they are not controlled by the words. His theory on historical impulse and political purpose I entirely support because at the end of the day writing serves the purpose of being a power struggle.