

Author's Purpose

Reasons for Writing

Three Main Purposes

1. To **Entertain**
2. To **Inform**
3. To **Persuade**

Every text serves one of these purposes.

Writing to **Entertain**

The **MAIN** purpose is to **amuse** readers.

Examples

- Stories
- Poems
- Plays

You may learn something from a story, but the **MAIN** purpose is to **entertain**.

Writing to **Inform**

The **MAIN** purpose is to enlighten the reader.

Examples

Expository essays

Nonfiction texts

Instructions or directions

Informational writing may be entertaining, but the **MAIN** purpose is to **inform**.

Writing to **Persuade**

The **MAIN** purpose is to convince the reader.

Examples

Persuasive Essays

Persuasive Speeches

Persuasive Letters or notes

Persuasive writing **attempts** to change the reader's mind or get them to do something.

Identifying the Author's Purpose

- 1. Is the text a poem, story, or play?**
(if “yes” = **entertain**; if “no” = go to next)
- 2. Does the text mainly give facts and info?**
(if “yes” = **inform**; if “no” = go to next)
- 3. Does the text make arguments?**
(if “yes” = **persuade**; if “no” = start over)

Practice

You will be graded on participation and completion, not on accuracy.

1. On a separate sheet of paper, number one through ten.
2. I will describe a piece of writing.
3. You will write the author's purpose: to **inform**, **persuade**, or **entertain**.

1

A note written by a young girl asking her ex-boyfriend to forgive her.

2

A recipe for making potato pancakes

3

The lyrics to a Lil Wayne song

4

The warnings on a bottle of Tylenol

5

A mailing from the American Cancer Society asking for donations to help fight cancer

6

The script for a popular television show
about vampires

7

A map and schedule of bus routes

8

A poem about how the world's fresh water supplies are polluted

9

An advertisement in a magazine to get readers to buy a new video game

10

A schedule of movies and the times that they show for a local theatre