

# Author's Purpose

## Lesson and Review



# What is **Author's Purpose**?

An **author** is a person who wrote something.

A **purpose** is a reason for doing something.

The **author's purpose** is the reason why someone wrote something.

# Purposes for Writing

There are **three main purposes** for writing:

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

You will learn about each of these.

# To Entertain

Writing texts to give readers enjoyment.

Examples:

- A **story** about a kid overcoming bullies
- A **poem** about bullying
- A **play** about a bully losing his friends

Stories, poems, and plays may teach a lesson, but the author's main purpose is to **entertain**.

# To Inform

Writing texts to provide information

## Examples

- A set of **directions** to create a bird house
- An **article** about the habits of a rare bird
- A **report** predicting the day's weather

**Some directions, articles, and reports may be entertaining, but the author's main purpose is to **inform**.**

# To Persuade

Writing text to influence the reader

## Examples

- A **flyer** saying vote “no” on proposition 54
- A **commercial** for foot cream
- A **letter** pleading for forgiveness

**Be careful. A text that is written to persuade may also be entertaining or informative, like a funny commercial.**

# How to Find the **Author's** Purpose

1. Ask yourself, “**Is it a story, poem, or play?**” If so, it was probably written to **entertain**.
2. Ask yourself, “**Is the text teaching me about something or showing me how to do something?**” If so, it was probably written to **inform**.
3. Ask yourself, “**Is this text trying to get me to do something?**” If so, it was probably written to **persuade**.

**Is it a story, poem, or drama (script)?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Does the text make arguments?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Does the text give facts?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Start  
Over**

**Entertain**

**Persuade**

**Inform**



# Practice

1. Take out a separate sheet of paper.
2. I will project short descriptions of texts on to the board.
3. You will determine what is most likely the author's main purpose in writing the text.
4. You will write your answer on your paper.
5. We will discuss our answers when everyone has had a chance to answer.

1

A poem about a garbage truck that uses a lot of onomatopoeia

# 2

A five-paragraph essay in which the author attempts to convince readers to recycle more and to be less wasteful

# 3

A short story about a boy who never cleans his room and the horrible mess that accumulates

# 4

Instructions on how to make a compost pile

# 5

A bookmark with facts about garbage, such as the average weight of garbage created each year by each individual and the height and width of the largest pile of garbage

# 6

The story of a garbage truck who has a hard time making friends

7

An article in a magazine comparing and contrasting waste management in New York City and Mexico City



# 8

A billboard asking voters to appoint Joe Santiago as Sanitation Commissioner

# 9

The script for a television commercial to be read by Miley Cyrus telling viewers to make environmentally friendly decisions because future generations depend on it

# 10

A sticker on the trash compactor that shows how to operate it

# Answers

1. Entertain
2. Persuade
3. Entertain
4. Inform
5. Inform
6. Entertain
7. Inform
8. Persuade
9. Persuade
10. Inform