

Point of View

Recognizing Author's Purpose

NAME: _____

CLASS: _____

When you read, it is important to know what purpose the author has in mind. Is the author trying to convince you to do something? Or to think in a certain way? Is the author trying to teach you how to do something by providing instructions? Does the author want to entertain you with an amusing story? Figuring out the author's purpose is an important step in understanding what you are reading.

▶ Read this text.



We have a problem in our community. We need a bigger library. Our current library is a small building. It is already filled with books, so the librarians have a hard time finding space to add new books that I want to read. The library is often so crowded that I cannot find a place to sit. And the building is too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter.

The author of this text is making an argument for a new library. The author is trying to convince you that the current library is not serving the community in the best way possible. The author provides information to support the claim. What is this author doing? Persuading you.

▶ Read this text.



- 1. Stir together: 1 cup flour, 2 tablespoons sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder, and a pinch of salt*
- 2. Add: 1 cup milk, 3 tablespoons butter, and 1 egg. Stir until flour is moistened.*
- 3. Heat griddle or pan over medium heat. Brush lightly with oil.*
- 4. Pour batter onto hot griddle, making a few pancakes at a time.*
- 5. Cook until tops are bubbly and edges look dry. Turn and cook until underside is golden.*

The author of this text has provided step-by-step instructions on how to make pancakes. The author also includes important facts, such as the amount of each ingredient to use. What is this author doing? Informing, or teaching, you.

▶ Read this text.



It happened one day that a big group of fish was playing a game. They played along a sandy beach near the sea. After many hours the fish became bored. They wanted something else to do. Fin was a large sunfish. He was the leader of the group of fish. He said, "Let's stop playing this boring game. I have a great idea. We can slide down from the highest cliff into the sea."

The author of this text is writing about talking fish! What is this author doing? Entertaining you.

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► Read this text.



My teacher wants everyone in our class to be friends. Since the first day of school, she has made sure we are all friends with one another. One day my teacher told our class we would make faraway friends. She said these friends lived in other countries. My teacher said we would get to know them without leaving our classroom!

My teacher handed out small paper envelopes. There was a colorful stamp on the outside of mine. My friends in the class each got their own envelope to open. My classmates and I opened the envelopes. Inside we each found a photo and a letter! My letter was written neatly with a green pen on white paper. I read it.

The author of this text is telling about something that happened to her. What is this author doing? Sharing a personal experience with you.

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► Read these paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.



When the food chain is broken, it affects all life on Earth: plants, animals, and people alike. To care for ourselves and keep ourselves healthy, we need to care for all other living things and keep them healthy too. It's as simple as that.

1. The author of the text above is



- A. persuading.
- B. informing.
- C. entertaining.
- D. sharing a personal experience.



In the United States today, the average home is about 2,600 square feet. That's more than twice the size of a home in the 1950s. And many of the homes built in just the last 20 years are far bigger. At the same time, many people around the world live in one room or a cramped apartment for economic reasons.

2. The author of the text above is



- A. persuading.
- B. informing.
- C. entertaining.
- D. sharing a personal experience.



I was sitting in my chair, lazily turning the pages of a small paperback book someone had left on the bus earlier that afternoon, when I came across the sentence that first put me on the trail. For a moment I didn't respond. It took some time for the full importance of the words to sink in. Once I understood what I had read, it seemed odd I hadn't noticed it right away.

3. The author of the text above is



- A. persuading.
- B. informing.
- C. entertaining.
- D. sharing a personal experience.



Pablo followed the alien down the hallway. They found the group of boys. The alien stared at the boys. Soon the boys were covered with spiders. They dropped Pablo's book bag. They jumped around, trying to brush the spiders off. Pablo saw his book bag fall to the floor. He grabbed it and ran toward his locker. The alien said, "See? I told you I have special powers."

4. The author of the text above is



- A. persuading.
- B. informing.
- C. entertaining.
- D. sharing a personal experience.