Author’s Purpose

Modes of Writing
Three Reasons for Writing

1. To Inform (Expository)
2. To Persuade (Persuasive)
3. Entertain (Narrative or Poetry)
Writing to Inform

Often called expository writing.

Expository writing shows or explains facts.

Examples:
- Biography of Barack Obama
- News report about a shooting
- Note to a friend
- Essay about “killer bees”

Remember: Expository = Expose
Writing to **Persuade**

Attempts to **influence** the reader.

Usually makes an argument.

**Examples:**

- Political speeches
- Advertisements
- A cover letter for your resume
- An essay urging readers to recycle
Writing to Entertain

Narratives: stories.
Have a beginning, middle, and end

A story may have a lesson, but the author’s main purpose is to entertain.

Examples of Writing to Entertain

• Harry Potter books
• Poems about love
• Narrative essay about the big game
• Script for a TV show
Is it a story, poem, or drama (script)?

Yes

No

Does the text make arguments?

Yes

No

Does the text give facts?

Yes

No

Inform

Persuade

Entertain

Start Over
Review

• **Informative** or **expository** writing provides **factual** information about a topic.

• **Persuasive** writing expresses an **opinion** (may use facts to support).

• All **narratives** are written to **entertain**, but so is **poetry**.
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.
The story of a teenage boy learning to understand and live with his father, who is an alcoholic Vietnam war veteran.
2

A list of the 25 richest athletes in the world.
An article arguing why Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player ever.
The story about a young girl with low self-esteem learning to love herself.
A National Geographic article about the eating and breeding habits of the endangered bald eagle.
A website saying that a new shopping mall should not be built because it threatens an endangered bald eagle’s home. The website also lists other reasons why the mall should not be built.
A poem about bald eagles.
A magazine ad telling you to buy Nike Hyperdunk shoes because you’ll jump higher.
A sign saying, “Rest Stop Five Miles Ahead.”
Answers

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