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.
A note written by a young girl asking her ex-boyfriend to forgive her.
A recipe for making potato pancakes
The lyrics to a Lil Wayne song
The warnings on a bottle of Tylenol
A mailing from the American Cancer Society asking for donations to help fight cancer
The script for a popular television show about vampires
A map and schedule of bus routes
A poem about how the world’s fresh water supplies are polluted
An advertisement in a magazine to get readers to buy a new video game
A schedule of movies and the times that they show for a local theatre