

Author's Purpose Notes

- Did you know that everything you read has a **purpose**?
- When an author writes something (book, magazine, textbook, newspaper article), he/she chooses his/her words for a **purpose**.
- The author's purpose is the main reason that he/she has for writing the selection.
- The author's purpose will be to:
 - Entertain
 - Inform
 - Persuade
- When you are able to recognize the author's purpose, you will have a better understanding of the selection.
- Also, the purpose will determine how you read a selection.

If the author's **purpose** is to **inform**, you will learn something from the selection.

- **Information** pieces sometimes use one or more of the following:
 - Facts
 - Details/Instructions
 - Places
 - Events
 - People

If the author's purpose is to **persuade**, the author will want you to believe his/her position.

- **Persuasive** pieces are usually non-fiction.
- Although there are facts, it **contains the author's opinions**.
- With **persuasive** pieces, it is clear on the author's point of view (if he/she is FOR or AGAINST it).

If the author's **purpose** is to **entertain**, one goal may be to tell a story or to describe characters, places or events (real or imaginary).

- Examples of **entertaining** texts include: plays, poems, stories, jokes, or even comic strips.
- Some selections will have two **purposes**.
- For example, if the article is about eating healthy, it will try to **persuade** you to eat your vegetables as well as, **inform** you about the different types of food groups.
- When the author's purpose is not obvious, listing important text details may help.