

Author's Purpose Activity

Directions: Read the descriptions of each item and determine the author's purpose in writing it (to entertain, persuade, or inform). Then, in a sentence or two, explain your answer.

1. A story about a family trying to stick together and survive through the Great Depression in the Midwest in the 1930s

Author's Purpose: Entertain

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two. Stories are written to entertain. This is a story.

2. A section in a history book describing the conditions and causes of the Great Depression in the Midwest in the 1930s

Author's Purpose: Inform

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two. This text provides information about the Great Depression. Therefore, it was written to inform.

3. An instructional booklet describing how to operate an MP3 player

Author's Purpose: Inform

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two. This text is an instruction manual. Therefore, it was written to inform.

4. An article where the author argues that an IPOD music player is better than a ZUNE

Author's Purpose: Persuasive

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two. The author is attempting to influence the reader. Therefore, it was written to persuade.

5. A poem about why the IPOD is the greatest consumer electronic device ever made

Author's Purpose: Entertain

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two. The main purpose for writing poems and stories is to entertain, even if a lesson can be learned or a reader could be influenced.

6. The story of a young athlete who takes steroids and his life and future fall apart

Author's Purpose: Entertain

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two.

Although readers could learn a lesson, the main purpose of a story is to entertain the reader.

7. A medical report describing the effects of steroids on the human body

Author's Purpose: Inform

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two. This text provides information. Therefore, the author's purpose is to inform.

8. A speech written by Jose Canseco listing the negative effects of steroids and urging young athletes to not use steroids

Author's Purpose: Persuade

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two.

The author is attempting to influence or persuade the reader to not use steroids.

9. A booklet containing the school rules and the consequences for violating those rules

Author's Purpose: Inform

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two.

This text provides information on what may happen if students get caught violating rules.

10. A story written about a young boy who moves to a new school and is bullied, but he gains self-confidence by joining a sports team and learns to stand up for himself.

Author's Purpose: Entertain

Explain Your Answer:

Write a sentence or two.

The main purpose of a narrative is to entertain the reader.