ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Author's purpose

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

This document was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Overview of the concept

This is how you read with the right expectation. A writer might be trying to inform you, persuade you to buy something, or entertain you with a story, and each purpose calls for a different kind of reading. Spotting the purpose first stops you from taking an advertisement as fact or a story as an argument.



Rule

Author's purpose: a writer writes to inform, to persuade, or to entertain. To inform gives facts and explains a process. To persuade tries to change your mind or get you to buy something.

To entertain tells a story for fun. Ask: does it give neutral facts, use strong selling words, or tell a story? The answer gives the purpose.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Purpose: A passage explains how bees make honey, step by step. What is the purpose?

SOLUTION

Ask: does it try to change your mind? No. Is it a story written to entertain? No.

It shares facts and walks through a process.

So the purpose is to inform.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Purpose: An ad says, 'Buy this bike now, the fastest bike ever!' What is the purpose?

SOLUTION

Ask: does it give neutral facts? No, it uses strong selling words.

It tries to get you to buy something.

So the purpose is to persuade.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Practice questions

1

Purpose: A funny story about a dog that hides shoes.

A Inform

B Entertain

C Persuade

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2

Purpose: A leaflet urging you to recycle.

A Entertain

B Inform

C Persuade

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

3 Purpose: A science text describing the water cycle.

- A Persuade
- B Entertain
- C Inform

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 Purpose: A poem about autumn leaves.

- A Persuade
- B Inform
- C Entertain

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

5 Purpose: A speech arguing that school should start later.

- A Inform
- B Persuade
- C Entertain

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 Purpose: A manual explaining how to build a shelf.

- A Entertain
- B Persuade
- C Inform

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

7 Purpose: A joke book.

A Inform

B Persuade

C Entertain

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 Purpose: An essay arguing that homework should be shorter.

A Entertain

B Persuade

C Inform

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

9

Purpose: A news report about a storm.

A Persuade

B Inform

C Entertain

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10

Purpose: A fairy tale about a dragon.

A Persuade

B Entertain

C Inform

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

ANSWER KEY

1. Entertain

2. Persuade

3. Inform

4. Entertain

5. Persuade

6. Inform

7. Entertain

8. Persuade

9. Inform

10. Entertain

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.