

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

**Start
Over**

Entertain

Persuade

Inform

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**.

1

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.

3

An article arguing why Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player ever.

4

An “X-men” comic book.

5

The story about a young girl with low self-esteem learning to love herself.

6

A National Geographic article about the eating and breeding habits of the endangered bald eagle.

7

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.

8

A poem about bald eagles.

9

A magazine ad telling you to buy Nike Hyperdunk shoes because you'll jump higher.

10

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**