Author's Purpose

Get out a piece of paper for Lit notes...

Why do people write?
People write for P.I.E.!!!
To persuade means to try to convince an audience to do or not do something.

Writing having a point of view or opinion includes:
- all forms of advertising
- editorials
- political speeches

To inform or teach someone about something
To inform means to direct, explain or notify someone about something.

- May be fact-packed, non-opinionated
- May give knowledge of something
- May take the form of non-fiction, such as:
  - historical documents
  - how-to books
  - directions
  - news

To entertain people
**To entertain** means to give pleasure to, to amuse or to tell a story that affects emotions.

May take the form of fiction, including
✓ novels
✓ comic books
✓ plays
✓ short stories
✓ poetry

Read the following paragraph and think of the reason the author may have written it. Move the yellow box to see a possible answer.

Last weekend Kyle and Cason, his cousin, were camping by a small pond near Kyle’s house. They had been fishing all morning without getting a single bite. Suddenly, there was a nibble on the end of Kyle’s fishing line, and the float went completely out of sight. Kyle stood up in the small boat and leaned over the edge of the boat to try to see the big fish on the line. Just then there was a hard yank on the line that jerked Kyle forward. He fell overboard and landed head first in the water. Later, Kyle and Cason laughed and laughed about the little fish that was big enough to pull him out of the boat.

The purpose of writing this piece may have been to

entertain    inform    persuade
The bobcat, Felis rufus, is found only in North America and is the most common wildcat found here. It is twice as large as a house cat with yellowish-brown fur markings, white belly and black markings. Its name comes from its “bobbed” or stubby tail that is about 5-7 inches long. The bobcat's average weight is 15-35 pounds, and the male is larger than the female. It waits in trees to pounce on its prey, which includes rodents, rabbits, squirrels and birds. The bobcat lives in swamps, forests, farmland and brushy areas.

The purpose of writing this piece may have been to __________.

entertain  inform  persuade

Read the following paragraph and think of the reason the author wrote it. Move the yellow box to see the answer.

It's New! It's Cool and Refreshing!
It's the Super Duper Watermelon Milk Shake!

This is the best milk shake ever made on this earth! It tastes just like watermelon. It's so sweet that if you drink it, it will make you extremely smart in school!

Try one today!

The purpose of writing this piece was to __________.

entertain  inform  persuade
Other reasons authors might write

- to perform a task
- to sell
- to inspire
- to correct a misunderstanding
- to show differing points of view
- to review a film
- to review a book
... or just because it's fun to write!

Your assignment:

Complete the "Understanding Author's Purpose" practice page with a partner.

Be ready to share your results with the class!
Understanding Author's Purpose
Let's review your decisions together!

#1 - HAMSTERS FOR SALE: Braxton Pet Store, Northwood Mall: We have a large selection of hamsters for sale this week. They are interesting pets and you will enjoy having one. They are only $17.99 this week. Come and buy yours today!

#2 - Calligraphy is a form of handwriting. A special pen must be used. Letters are formed using up and down strokes. Old documents are usually written in this form. Diplomas, certificates and other awards are written in calligraphy. It is an interesting form of handwriting.

#3 - Katina and her brother, Jake, were playing with the water hose outside one day. Jake was hiding from Katina so she wouldn’t squirt him with the water. The back door opened and Katina pointed the water hose toward the door. It was Mom and she was dripping wet!

#4 - Rosie had the best time making her valentine cards for her classmates. She used red and white paper, heart stickers, markers and anything else she could find. It was great. Her friends are planning a valentine party on Feb. 14th at school. The one she made for her best friend is funny. Funny valentines are nice to get.

#5 - The easy Chopper 3 will chop your vegetables for you in about 30 sec. It is easy to use and you can use any vegetable. The cost is $29.95. Order yours today!

#6 - Abraham Lincoln's birthday is on Feb. 12th. He was a great President of the United States. He was our 16th President. He is remembered for freeing the slaves.

#7 - Judy Glen's amazing Wrinkle Remover cream will make you look younger in thirty days or less. This remarkable cream has special ingredients to make your wrinkles disappear. The cost for a thirty day supply is $25.99. Send your check to P.O. Box 00002, Shelton, CA 74836.

#8 - Thomas was not happy one little bit. His sister, Susan was making honor roll again. His parents would allow her to do anything she wanted to do. Thomas was not making honor roll this time and he was not going to be allowed to do all the things he wanted to do. Poor Thomas! He would just have to study harder and get back on the honor roll.

#9 - Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder was born on Feb. 7, 1867 in Pepin, Wisconsin to Charles and Caroline Ingalls. She met and married Almanzo James Wilder in 1885. She published many books based on her travels to the west. Her writing became the basis for the "Little House" series. She died in 1957.
Your assignment:
Today we are going to look at four examples of non-fiction writing. With your partner, you are going to identify the author's purpose for each.

Here are the steps:
1) Read each passage.
2) Identify the author's purpose for writing.
3) On the chart, you will choose the correct box for each sample. In the box, write the name of the book/article/etc.
4) In the same box, write WHY you chose this purpose.

Let's look at an example.

Let's read the example together. As we read, think about WHY the author wrote this article.

The Thunder are the NBA's most exciting young team. Of their major contributors, only Nick Collison (age 30) is older than 27. Leading the way is 2009-10 scoring champion Kevin Durant. The 6'9" forward can take it to the rim, has a picture-perfect jump shot, and has worked hard to become an elite defender. Durant has two terrific sidekicks: Russell Westbrook and Jeff Green. Both are unselfish players who can make big plays when needed.

-from Sports Illustrated Kids, Nov. 2010 NBA Preview

What Is the Author's Purpose?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Write to Inform</th>
<th>Write to Persuade</th>
<th>Write to Entertain</th>
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Let's discuss what we found:

Author's Purpose Worksheet.pdf

Extension Assignment:

1) In groups of three, create a pie out of construction paper and section it into thirds.

2) Label the pieces of the pie (persuade, inform, and entertain).

3) Each group member will cut out articles and advertisements from the newspaper or magazines that relate to a piece of the Author's Purpose Pie (persuade, inform, or entertain).

4) Glue the articles in the correct piece of the pie.
   - Due at the end of the hour! Clean up!!!
Author's Purpose Worksheet.pdf