

Week 7



COMUNIDADES LATINAS
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

Why is it important to determine an author's purpose and point of view?

- Determining the author's purpose and the point of view of a text can help us deepen our understanding of what we read and read with a critical lens. These are lifelong skills we need when critically analyzing text to distinguish different perspectives and/or determine propaganda.

Key Vocabulary

point of view- perspective from which the text is told

author's purpose- the reason an author writes something

inform- to teach, give facts

entertain- to enjoy, for pleasure, usually a story

persuade- to convince someone

express- feelings

Point of View

Nonfiction texts are written from different points of view – the perspectives and purposes with which an author writes a particular piece. You can determine an author's point of view on the basis of clues from the text, such as details that point out what the author likes or dislikes; vocabulary, particularly adjectives and words with strong impact; and the author's interest or background. Also, the magazine, newspaper, or Internet site may reveal something about the author's political or other views.



A MYTH ABOUT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

a

Words that have positive or negative meanings, such as **fair**, may help indicate the author's point of view.



The notion that federal workers consistently earn higher salaries than comparable private-sector workers has become an accepted truth. Conservative think tanks, including the Cato Institute, make much of data that does not offer fair comparisons of similar public-sector and private-sector jobs or account for how experience and education affect pay. A pediatrician with a small practice in Des Moines and a doctor at the National Institutes of Health who is leading a team of 50 researchers trying to cure cancer both provide health care, for example, but we shouldn't expect that they be paid the same.

b

The byline tells you that this passage comes from a newspaper opinion piece.



Though some critics question their accuracy, government analyses show that federal employees make on average 24 percent less than their private-sector counterparts. ... In addition, the average private-sector salary in 2010 for a recent college graduate was \$48,661. Entry-level federal workers start at \$34,075, or \$42,209 for candidates with superior academic achievement.

From *The Washington Post's* opinion piece FIVE MYTHS ABOUT FEDERAL WORKERS by Max Stier, © 2010

1. Which sentence **best** states the author's point of view?

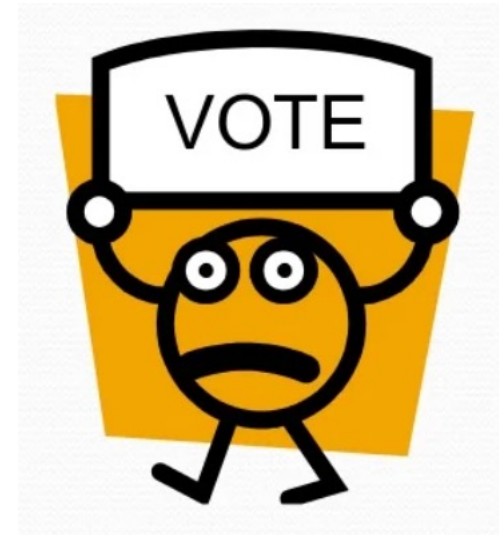
- A. Federal employees need to be paid more for their work.
- B. Government analyses of federal pay are inaccurate.
- C. Federal employees should be paid the same as private-sector employees.
- D. Federal employees are not overpaid compared with private-sector workers.

TEST-TAKING TIPS

Some questions might ask you to consider an author's purpose. The author's point of view is often related to his or her purpose for writing. An editorial or opinion piece presents an opinion on a current issue.

Persuade

- When do we write to persuade?
- Texts written to change your thinking, spend money, support a cause, or offer a solution to a problem
- Examples:
 - Advertisements/commercials
 - Political speeches
 - Church sermons/literature
 - Opinion editorials
 - Movie/book reviews



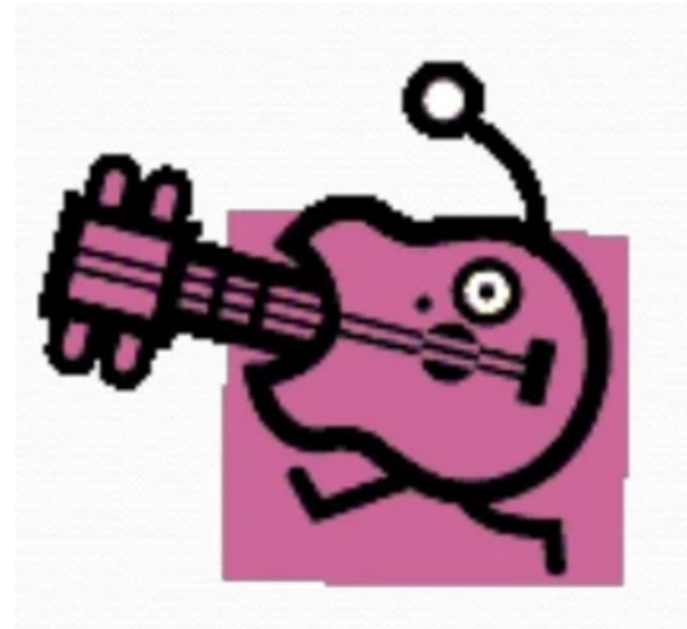
Inform

- When do we write to inform?
- Texts written to give information or describe something. Authors use facts and reasons to get the point across.
- **Examples:**
 - News articles
 - Information brochures
 - Encyclopedias
 - Schedules, charts, instructions



Entertain

- When do we write to entertain?
- Texts written to interest the reader, or appeal to emotions such as pleasure, sadness, anger or humor.
- **Examples:**
 - Fiction books or stories
 - Plays/movies
 - Comic strips
 - Video games
 - Sports articles



Compare

- When do we write to compare?
- Texts written to examine two or more things that are alike or different. Can have a secondary purpose to either inform or persuade.
- Examples:
 - Comparison essays
 - Political analysis
 - Consumer or product reports



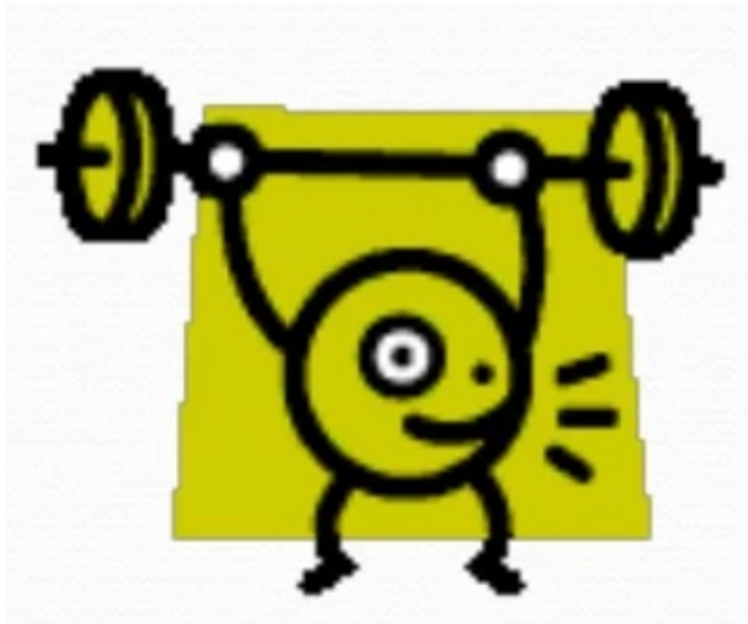
Express

- When do we write to express?
- Texts written to share a writer's feelings or express opinions.
- Examples:
 - Poetry
 - Songs
 - Blogs
 - Love letters
 - Journals/diaries
 - Letters to the editor



Practice

Identify the author's purpose in the following texts



What is the Purpose?

- A song about a father's joy and love for his new baby girl.
- A political speech recommending that you support a tax increase.
- A poster in the hall that encourages students to say no to drugs.
- A pamphlet in a doctor's office that explains the disease diabetes.
- A letter explaining the differences between two types of medical insurance.



WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE FOR THESE PASSAGES?

- iPhones are better than any other cell phone currently in existence. With their high-tech touch screen, cool apps, and WiFi access, they put all other brands of phone to shame. Everyone should get rid of their Droids and Blackberries and switch to the iPhone.



WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE FOR THESE PASSAGES?

- Then a wild crashing sound, ripping of metal, and the plane rolled to the right and blew through the trees, out over the water and down, down to slam into the lake, skip once on water as hard as concrete, water that tore the windshield out and shattered the side windows, water that drove him back into the seat. Somebody was screaming, screaming as the plane drove down into the water. - Gary Paulsen



WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE FOR THESE PASSAGES?

- The somatic nervous system is monitored and controlled by the Central Nervous System. The spinal cord oversees the spinal nerves, and the brain oversees the 12 pairs of nerves in the cranium.

WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE FOR THESE PASSAGES?

- Vegetarians' life spans are increased and through this discipline they learn to live quality in all the possible aspects. Take a look at yourself. Is your health at risk? Are you a factor of change and improvement within your society? You must at least try becoming a vegetarian now that you know it is a tempting challenge and an exciting experiment that has advantages and no risks. Do it for your body, your health, or for your environment, but do it.



WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE FOR THESE PASSAGES?

- Every person in China should visit the Water Splashing Festival once in their life. The festival is held in April and is one of the most beautiful celebrations in the world. The cherry trees are blooming. The people dress in colorful costumes, and the water splashing events are fun to join. Clear your calendar and join us for a celebration of the New Year!



WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE FOR THESE PASSAGES?

- The face of the United States is changing. Hispanic Americans, also known as Latinos, make up the fastest-growing group. The latest U.S. Census shows that 41 million people are Hispanic. A census is a count of people. Hispanic Americans are people whose families are from Spanish-speaking countries. Most of those countries are in Central and South America.

Guided Practice: Point of View/Purpose

- Read the following passages from beginning to end. Then, read and answer the questions in the strategies column.
- (see PDFs)

Homework: PLATO

Active Assignments



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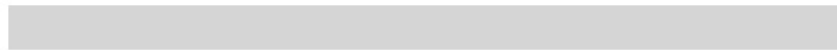
To begin, select an activity from All Activities

[Select New Activity](#) 



All Activities

Completion: 0/5 (0%)



No Due Date

Thank you for coming to class!

Remember:

- GED: Mondays (Writing Lab) and Tuesdays – 10am-12pm
- English – Wednesday, Thursday - 10am and/or 6pm
- Computer class: Friday - 10am