AUTHOR’S PURPOSE AND PERSPECTIVE

Author’s purpose is the reason why and how the text was written. It can be the main purpose for the selection or the author’s reasons for including elements within the text. The author’s perspective is how the author feels about the subject.

TIPS:
- Thinking about an author’s main reason for writing helps readers set a purpose for reading a selection.
- Authors may use different text structures depending on their purpose.
- Some authors write to entertain. They tell stories about characters and settings that are fun to read about. They often use sequence to tell story events in order.
- Authors who write mainly to teach, inform, or explain give readers facts about a topic. This is often used in nonfiction writing. Authors may use main idea and details to tell the information.
- Authors who write to persuade give opinions about their subjects. They may ask or try to convince readers to do or think a certain way. They give reasons and details to support their opinion. This is often found in speeches, advertisements, and letters to editors.
- Recognizing the author’s purpose can help readers understand the author’s perspective.

QUESTION STEMS:
- What is the MOST LIKELY reason the author wrote the story?
- What is the author’s main purpose for writing this article?
- Which sentence from the article tells the author’s main message?
- This passage was written mainly to...
- In the last paragraph, why did the author end the passage with __?
- What does the author mean when he/she writes ___?
- How does the author let you know about ___?
- How does the author help readers BETTER understand how to...?
- What is the author’s MOST LIKELY reason for ___?
- With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?
- In order to show readers that ___, the author includes ___.
- Why did the author include the section ___?
- The MOST LIKELY reason the author _____, was to...
- The author says “___” to show that...
- Why does the author ____?
- What was the author’s purpose in _____?
- What is the purpose of the first heading? (illustration, etc.)
- What clues helped you determine the author’s purpose for...?
- How did the author let the reader know his/her perspective on the topic?

ANSWER STEMS:
- To tell about...
- To explain why...
- To show how...
- To convince (persuade) the reader to...
- To encourage readers to...
- To give information about...
- To describe how...
- To teach...
- To give an example of...
- To introduce readers to...
- To reveal...
- To add suspense...
- To give an account of...
- To illustrate...
- To discuss...