

Identifying an Author's Purpose

When identifying the author's purpose for writing a persuasive text, we must look at several things:

- the main idea
- the facts presented
- the opinions presented
- the supporting evidence

What is a **main idea**?

The central topic of a piece of writing. It is what the writing is all about.

What is the main idea of "Seventh Grade" by Gary Soto that we read at the beginning of the year?

What is a **fact**?

A fact is something that is true.

Ex: My hair is black. My eyes are brown.

Turn to your neighbor and tell them one fact about you.

What is an **opinion**?

Something that is a person's own belief or a personal viewpoint.

Ex: My hair is beautiful. My eyes are beautiful.

Turn to your neighbor and tell them one opinion you have.

What is **persuasive text**?

Persuasive text is any writing in which an author is expressing facts or opinions to try to convince the reader.

Ex: opinion columns in the newspaper, student essays asking for a change in school policy, etc.

Why would you or anyone else have to write to persuade?

Author's position:

What the author believes. This is also referred to as the author's point of view or perspective.

Ex: If the commercials we viewed were "written texts," the author's position would be, "Cheerios are good and good for you. You should buy cheerios."

Supporting Evidence:

facts, details, statistics or examples given by the author that help the reader form judgments.

Ex: In the Cheerios commercial, there was "supporting evidence" of why Cheerios are good for you - they make your heart healthy.

Give examples from the game commercial that are supporting evidence. In other words, what is being shown to make you believe it is a cool game system?

Attachments

Roads Can Hurt Us.doc