



Author's purpose

I will serve you a passage, and you tell me the author's purpose for writing it!

Gaylord Nelson is the person credited for Earth Day. He was convinced that the planet was at risk, so he decided to try to do something to change that. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962. He came up with an idea for Earth Day and announced the concept at a conference he was attending in Seattle in the fall of 1969.

Citizens from all over the United States responded to his call. By the following April, Americans were ready. The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970. 20 million people participated. Thousands of schools and communities got involved.

Earth Day celebrations have flourished since that first one in 1970. There is now an Earth Day Network, a nonprofit group that organizes Earth Day activities. In 1990, Earth Day went global when 140 countries participated. Earth Day is now an important day in April. People everywhere are uniting to take care of our planet.

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

If you have a lot of extra crayon stubs laying around, don't throw them out! You can use them to make big, chunky crayons.

Just follow these steps:

1. Collect all of your old crayons.
2. Remove the paper wrapped around the crayons..
3. Cut them into small pieces.
4. Preheat the oven to 250 degrees.
5. Fill a muffin tin one inch thick with the crayon pieces.
6. Bake 15-20 minutes, or until crayons are melted.
7. Allow the tin to cool. Pop out the crayons and start coloring.

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

Dear Kate,

I wish you were here at the beach with me! You would love it! Last night, I sat on the beach as the sun was setting. I could feel the warm breeze while I listened to the calming, rhythmic crashing of waves against the shore. The colors of the sunset was simply beautiful! The sky had layers of red, orange, yellow, blue, violet, and magenta. It was incredible! I took a deep breath and the feeling of fresh air filling my lungs was refreshing. The only thing that would have made the experience better is if you would have been here to see it with me. See you soon! Say hi to Mom and Dad for me!

Your sister,
Jessica

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

Brooke dragged herself to the kitchen. *Ugh! I just want to go back to bed,* she thought. She wished it was the weekend, but she knew it was only Thursday. She had to be to school in 45 minutes. *I better start on breakfast.*

Brooke glanced at the counter as she opened the refrigerator. *What in the world?!?* she thought to herself. She rubbed her eyes and looked again. Yes, she saw the same thing: purple eggs and green milk?!?! *Are my eyes working correctly?*

"April Fool's!" giggled her mother, who was watching from the other room.

Brooke smiled. "That was a good one, Mom!" Her mom knew that Brooke loved this quirky day of the year.

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

Many people think brown is a boring color, but I disagree. Brown is the best color of all! It is the color of teddy bears, and don't most young children go to bed with a teddy bear? Brown can give us a feeling of comfort. Brown is also the color of chocolate. Everyone loves chocolate! It's the perfect thing to make you feel better after a rough day. Don't you agree that brown is one of the best colors?

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

According to Laura Wattenberg, author of "The Baby Name Wizard", we are in the middle of a naming revolution. Never before has there been such a variety of names given to newborns. In the 1950s, half of all male babies born were given one of 25 common boy's names, while half of all female babies born were given one of 50 common girl's names. That is by no means the case today, however. According to Wattenberg, "If you have 10 guesses to get somebody's name today, there's almost no chance you'll get it, but 100 years ago, if you guessed the top 10 names you'd have a really good chance of guessing correctly.

What's the reason for this change? Sociologists suggest that parents are striving to give their child a name that will be unique and distinctive, traits that are becoming increasingly prized in the world today.

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- a. to persuade the reader to agree that babies should be given unique names
- b. to inform the reader about how baby-naming has changed in recent years
- c. to inform the reader about the importance of choosing a good name for your baby
- d. to entertain the reader with facts about baby names

SQUIRRRTT... Uh-oh, when you hear that familiar sound, you know what's coming next...

PEEWWWW! You recognize the oh-so-foul odor in an instant, and just like always, you want to gag! However, given that you are babysitting your little sister, you know you have no choice but to face the fact. You need to change her dirty diaper.

You pick up your baby sister, and her legs start kicking with joy as you carry her quickly to her changing table. You gently set her down, and then take a deep breath, trying not to inhale the awful fumes. *Here we go*, you think, as you slowly open the diaper, knowing the greenish-brown sludge about to greet your eyes...

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- a. to describe to the reader the gross characteristics that go with a baby sister's dirty diaper
- b. to describe to the reader how to go about changing a dirty diaper
- c. to explain to the reader how to go about changing a dirty diaper
- d. to entertain the reader with a story about changing a baby sister's diaper

Have you ever wondered what you can do to calm a crying baby? Dr. Harvey Carp has written a book on this very topic, and in it, shares "The 5 S's" to calm a crying infant. They are:

- **Swaddle**, or wrap the baby snugly in a blanket.
- **Side**, which means to position the baby so he is lying on his side.
- **Shhhh**, which means to repeatedly make the "shhh" sound in the baby's ear.
- **Swing**, which means to either put the baby in a baby swing or to swing the baby in your arms.
- **Suck**, which basically means to feed your baby or give them a pacifier.

The next time you are faced with a crying infant, give "The 5 S's" a try!

I'm going to have a baby sister in a few months, and I think my parents should name her Amelia. I think it's the right name for several reasons. First, Amelia means "to work, industrious, or laborious". I think that will inspire her to be a hard worker and never give up. Secondly, I know of at least two famous and inspiring women with the name of Amelia. Amelia Earhart was the first female pilot to attempt to fly solo around the world. Even though she mysteriously disappeared attempting to do so, she was clearly a fearless and determined person. Amelia Boynton Robinson was also fearless and determined. She was a 1960s Civil Rights activist who championed the African American right to vote, and was even brutally beaten as she bravely fought for this cause.

If I were a girl, I would be honored to share a name with either of these famous women, wouldn't you? Clearly, my parents should name my baby sister Amelia.

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- a. to entertain the reader with a story of how his baby sister got her name
- b. to inform the reader of famous Amelias of the past century
- c. to persuade the reader to agree that his parents should choose Amelia for his baby sister's name
- d. to persuade the reader to agree that Amelia means "to work, industrious, or laborious"

Why won't someone help me?! I'm screaming, trying to tell anyone that will listen that I'm awake and I want to get out of this crib NOW!

Okay, I'm going to stop waiting for a minute and see if I hear anyone coming. Waiting... Waiting... Waiting...

WAAAHHHH!! No one is coming! I've been abandoned! No one is coming and I am scared in this dark place!

Wait. Do I hear something? Yes! I think I hear footsteps coming! I am about to be rescued... finally!

Ahhhh. Light... and there is Mama's familiar face. I'm going to give her a huge smile to let her know how happy I am to see her again!

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- a. to persuade the reader to agree that babies should never sleep alone because they will wake up scared
- b. to inform the reader about what goes through a baby's mind when he/she wakes up from a nap
- c. to explain to the reader what goes through a baby's mind when he/she wakes up from a nap
- d. to entertain the reader with a story about waking up from a baby's perspective

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- a. to persuade readers to always try swaddling a baby first when trying to calm him or her
- b. to persuade readers to keep a record of what works to calm their baby
- c. to explain to the reader how a baby can be calmed by using "The 5 S's"
- d. to explain to the reader how difficult it can be to calm a baby

Author's purpose



I will serve you a passage, and I will tell you the author's purpose for writing it!

Answer key

Gaylord Nelson is the person credited for Earth Day. He was convinced that the planet was at risk, so he decided to try to do something to change that. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962. He came up with an idea for Earth Day and announced the concept at a conference he was attending in Seattle in the fall of 1969.

Citizens from all over the United States responded to his call. By the following April, Americans were ready. The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970. 20 million people participated. Thousands of schools and communities got involved.

Earth Day celebrations have flourished since that first one in 1970. There is now an Earth Day Network, a nonprofit group that organizes Earth Day activities. In 1990, Earth Day went global when 140 countries participated. Earth Day is now an important day in April. People everywhere are uniting to take care of our planet.

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

To inform the reader about how Earth Day came to be

Brooke dragged herself to the kitchen. *Ugh! I just want to go back to bed,* she thought. She wished it was the weekend, but she knew it was only Thursday. She had to be to school in 45 minutes. *I better start on breakfast.*

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"April Fool's!" giggled her mother, who was watching from the other room.

Brooke smiled. "That was a good one, Mom!" Her mom knew that Brooke loved this quirky day of the year.

What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

To entertain the reader with a story about a girl on April Fool's Day

If you have a lot of extra crayon stubs laying around, don't throw them out! You can use them to make big, chunky crayons.

Just follow these steps:

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What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

To explain to the reader how to make chunky crayons out of stubs

Dear Kate,

I wish you were here at the beach with me! You would love it! Last night, I sat on the beach as the sun was setting. I could feel the warm breeze while I listened to the calming, rhythmic crashing of waves against the shore. The colors of the sunset was simply beautiful! The sky had layers of red, orange, yellow, blue, violet, and magenta. It was incredible! I took a deep breath and the feeling of fresh air filling my lungs was refreshing. The only thing that would have made the experience better is if you would have been here to see it with me. See you soon! Say hi to Mom and Dad for me!

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What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?

To describe to the reader the wonderful experience of being at the beach

Many people think brown is a boring color, but I disagree. Brown is the best color of all! It is the color of teddy bears, and don't most young children go to bed with a teddy bear? Brown can give us a feeling of comfort. Brown is also the color of chocolate. Everyone loves chocolate! It's the perfect thing to make you feel better after a rough day. Don't you agree that brown is one of the best colors?

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Answer Key

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An explanation

I created this worksheet as a “companion” to my Author’s Purpose PowerPoint. I intend to use this with my students so they can follow along as we make our way through the slides.

Thank you for your purchase of this resource! I hope you and your students enjoy working on it! I have several more interactive PowerPoints available at my store that I invite you to check out:

Point of View

Main Idea

Parts of Speech

Context Clues

Figurative Language

Nonfiction Text Structures

Summarizing

Plot

Prefixes & Suffixes

Greek and Latin Roots

Figurative Language

Theme

Genres of Literature

...and more to come!