Author's Purpose

The author's purpose is the main reason the writer created the text.

Most purposes fall into **three** major categories:

Persuade — The author wants the reader to believe or do something. Clues: opinions, arguments, claims, emotional appeals, strong language.

Inform — The author wants to teach or explain something. Clues: facts, statistics, definitions, step-by-step explanations, neutral tone.

Entertain — The author wants to tell a story or create an experience. Clues: characters, conflict, plot, descriptive language, humor, suspense.

Additional purposes you may see: describe, explain, express feelings, instruct.

Quoting (How to use quotes correctly)

Quoting means using the author's exact words to support your ideas.

Use quotation marks around the exact words: "The sky darkened suddenly."

Introduce the quote so it doesn't appear randomly: The narrator describes the moment as "terrifying and unforgettable."

Blend the quote smoothly into your sentence: The author reveals the theme by stating that "courage is born from fear."

Explain the quote afterward *(never let a quote stand alone)*. This shows how the quote supports your point.

Use ellipses (…) to remove unnecessary parts, and **brackets [ ]** to clarify or adjust grammar.

Citing Evidence

Citing evidence means proving your answer using information from the text.

Use direct quotes or **paraphrased details** from the text.

Citing Evidence (cont)

Always connect the evidence to your claim (explain how it proves your point).

Use sentence starters to introduce evidence:

"According to the text…"

"The author states…"

"For example…"

"In paragraph __, it says…"

Strong evidence is specific, relevant, and clearly supports your answer

Weak evidence is vague, unrelated, or doesn't actually prove anything.

Identifying Genre Elements

Each genre has signature features. Recognizing them helps you identify the type of text and analyze it correctly.

Fiction — characters, setting, plot, conflict, theme, dialogue.

Fantasy — magic, mythical creatures, invented worlds, quests.

Science Fiction — futuristic tech, space, advanced science, alternate realities.

Mystery — clues, suspects, red herrings, detective figure, solution.

Drama — script format, stage directions, acts/scenes, dialogue only.

Poetry — line breaks, stanzas, rhythm, figurative language, imagery.

Nonfiction — real facts, headings, charts, objective tone.

Biography/Autobiography — real person's life story, chronological events.

Argumentative — claims, evidence, counterclaims, reasoning.

Informational — explanations, definitions, examples, factual details.