The GROUP BY clause in your SQL query is used to group the results based on the specified columns: p.playerID and s.yearID.

Here's a breakdown:

1. **Grouping:**
   * The database divides the entire result set into groups.
   * Each group contains all rows with the same playerID and s.yearID. This means all rows for a particular player within a specific year are placed in the same group.
2. **Data Aggregation (Implicit):**
   * Even though your query doesn't explicitly use aggregate functions (like SUM, AVG, COUNT), the GROUP BY clause still has an effect.
   * It ensures that only one row is returned for each unique combination of playerID and s.yearID.

**In essence, the GROUP BY clause in your query acts as a filter, ensuring that you get only one row for each player in each year, effectively eliminating duplicate rows that might arise due to multiple entries for the same player and year.**

By grouping the results in this way, you get a concise and accurate representation of the players' salaries over time.

I hope this explanation clarifies the role of the GROUP BY clause in your query!