***Identifying the Author’s Purpos*e**

An **author’s purpose** is his reason for or intent in writing. An **author’s purpose** could be: to tell a story (narrate)/ to entertain, to explain how to do something, to persuade someone to believe, to describe an object, process or place, to express feelings, to inform the reader about something. An **author’s purpose** is reflected in the way he writes about a topic.

**a. Informative**: uncovering the facts about some incident and then reporting them to the reader

**b. Explanatory/expository**: gathering facts and information, combining them with your own knowledge and experience, and clarifying for some audience **what,** **how and why** something happened

**c. Argumentative**: arguing for your opinion by presenting opposing positions accurately and fairly

**d. Persuasive**: presenting an opinion and trying to persuade readers so as to win them over to your side

**e. Descriptive**: portraying people, places, objects and moments with enough vivid detail to help readers visualize what is being written about

**f. Expressive**: expressing your feelings, attitudes and ideas without taking readers into consideration

**g. Entertaining**: amusing readers and keeping them occupied by sharing some funny stories or surprising actions

***Application***

***Read each paragraph and sentence and identify the purpose of each. Then, justify your answer.***

1. The word is terracide. It is not committed with guns and knives, but with relentless bulldozers, roaring dump trucks, and giant shovels like mythological beasts. Dynamite cuts and rips apart mountains to reach the minerals inside, leaving nothing but empty, naked hills. The land is left wasted and allowed to slide down upon houses and into streams, making the land unlivable and the stream water undrinkable. This is terracide, or if you prefer, strip mining.

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1. To make a delicious New England pit, proceed as follows: take some water and flour, then construct a bullet-proof dough. Make this into a disk-shaped object. Dry it for a couple of days in a mild temperature. Pour on stewed dried apples and slabs of citron; leave it in a safe place until it petrifies. Serve cold at breakfast and invite your friends.

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1. I will try to give the reader of this article some idea of the real nature of Gothic architecture, not just of Venice, but of universal Gothic. One of the most interesting parts of our study is to find out how far Venetian architecture went in achieving the perfect type of Gothic, and how far it fell short of it.

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1. On September 23rd, a large cavalry troop from Fort Robinson arrived at the camp of Sitting Ball. Just as he was about to give a welcoming speech, a commotion broke out among the watching warriors. Rifles were fired, and the meeting ended in a massacre of the soldiers.

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1. Tofu is a product that is becoming very popular as a low- calorie, cholesterol- free meat substitute. Formerly it was found exclusively in Oriental markets and health food stores, but today Tofu can be purchased in most supermarket produce departments. This white, cheese like substance is made from the condensed milk of soybeans. It is extremely high in protein and low in sodium. Tofu is almost tasteless by itself, but it can be easily mixed into sauces and soups; it can even be made to imitate scrambled eggs.

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1. Dear Tall, Dark and Handsome- This is your lucky day! The girl of your dream is just a phone call away. I am 5’ 10’’, slim, pretty, and only 23. I love pop music, good books, exotic foods and foreign travel. Give me a call any day after 6 p.m. You won’t be sorry. Your friend, Jackie.

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1. Our criminal justice system today is a disgrace. Modern day criminals have more rights than an honest citizen ever imagined were written into our U.S. Constitution. Murderers and rapists are typically set free on legal technicalities and seldom face any jail time. While that scum is back to work finding new victims, the pleas of those they have killed, maimed, or violated go unheard. Until we begin giving some real consideration to people who obey the law, instead of those who break it, things are going to continue getting worse.

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1. Benjamin was running as fast as he could. He had to dodge between people on the street-women carrying market baskets, men with their walking sticks and white wigs. His own legs, in pants and knee- high white stockings, flashed like the spoke of a wheel as he ran. At first, he had heard his mother trying to call him back. “Benjamin! Stop right now!” But her voice had grown distant as he raced down the road. He had to get there on time- he just had to. He had to vote against the British rule.

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1. When most people think of a shipwreck, they imagine the remains of a huge wooden or metal boat crashed along the bottom of the ocean. Fish swim in and out of the mangled boat’s hull, and coral and seaweed cling to its sides. Meanwhile, divers with scuba gear and cameras paddle their way into the depths to explore inside the long-forgotten vessel. They might find anything from old pottery to rusty cannons to pirate gold, but one thing is certain: the deep cold water has swallowed up the ship and kept it secret for a very long time.

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1. Each time a person opens his or her mouth to eat, he or she makes a nutritional decision. These selections make a definitive difference in how an individual looks, feels, and performs at work or play. When a good assortment of food like fresh fruits, leafy vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins is selected and eaten, the consequences are likely to be desirable levels for health and energy to allow one to be as active as needed.

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1. Studies of American diets, particularly the diets of the very young, reveal unsatisfactory dietary habits as evidenced by the numbers of overweight and out of shape young children. Parents, who are supposed to be masters of their children’s dietary habits, often leave nutritional choices to their children, who are not informed enough to make healthy decisions. If anyone is to blame for the childhood obesity crisis in the United States today, it is the parents who allow their children to eat nutritionally bankrupt foods.

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1. The next day, the 22nd of March, at six in the morning, preparations for departure were begun. The last gleams of twilight were melting into night. The cold was great; the constellations shown with wonderful intensity. In the zenith glittered that wondrous Southern Cross- the polar bear of Antarctic regions. The thermometer showed 12 degrees below zero, and when the wind freshened, it was most biting. Flakes of ice increased on the open water.

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1. Until the early 1900’s, Americans were not extremely concerned about their futures as they became older. The major source of economic security was farming, and the extended family cared for the elderly. However, the Industrial Revolution brought an end to this tradition. Farming gave way to more progressive means of earning a living and family ties became looser; as a result, the family was not always available to take care of the older generation.

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1. The funeral was just stretching on and on that sweaty Sunday in the middle of the summer. I took a look at my fingers, swollen from the dizzy heat, and ached to be splashing around in the creek behind the church. Daddy promised that the rain from Friday would cool everything down, but the sun just sucked up all that water just the same as it did year after year. All the women, dressed in black with funny looking hats, whispered at each other and blew their noses as they tried to fan themselves.

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1. A warm front is a specific air pressure system where warm air replaces cool air. It is associated with a low pressure system and usually moves from a southerly direction to the north. A warm front passage can be depicted by an increase in temperature and humidity, a decrease in the air pressure, a wind change to a southerly direction, and the likelihood of precipitation.

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1. The high tech world of clocks and schedules, computers and programs was supposed to free us from a life of toil and deprivation, yet with each passing day, the human race becomes more enslaved, exploited, and victimized. Millions starve while a few live in splendor. The human race remains divided from itself and severed from the natural world that is its primordial community.

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1. As Americans have grown more health-conscious, the menus in school cafeterias have begun to change.

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1. Nurses assigned to intensive care units, should be given shorter shifts and higher pay because the work is unusually demanding and stressful.

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1. It’s easy to quit smoking; I have done it hundreds of times.

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1. More women should get involved in local politics and support the growing number of female candidates for public office.

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1. The career of a professional athlete is usually quite short.

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1. An artificial odor is added to natural gas so that people can tell whether or not gas is leaking.

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1. Fred believes in a seafood diet, when he sees food, he eats it.

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1. Shoparama has low, low prices, an outstanding selection of health and beauty products, and a convenient location near you.

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1. The best approach to take when you feel the urge to exercise is to lie down quickly in a darkened room until the feeling goes away.

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1. An ancient Egypt, priests plucked their hair including their eyebrows and eyelashes as a sign of purity.

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1. A wave is any movement that carries energy. Some waves carry energy through water. Others carry energy through gases, like air, or solid materials. If you drop a rock into a pool of water, a wave, or ripple of energy, skims across the pool’s surface. In the same way, an underwater earthquake can release energy into ocean water. Then, it carries a giant wave, or tsunami, across the surface until it hits land.

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1. Everyone needs help sometimes. Humans depend on one another. That’s why communities everywhere have special people to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it.

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1. A story about a family trying to stick together and survive through the Great Depression in the Midwest in the 1930s.

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1. A section in a history book describing the conditions and causes of the Great Depression in the Midwest.

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1. An instructional booklet describing how to operate a smart phone.

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1. An article where the author argues than an i-phone is better than an Android phone.

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1. A medical report describing the effects of steroids on the human body.

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1. A story written about a young boy who moves to a new school and is bullied, but he gains self-confidence by joining a sports team and learns to stand up for himself.

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1. A pamphlet urging people not to eat animals or use products made from animals or animal suffering because the author thinks that is cruel and unnecessary.

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1. A cook book containing recipes for baking cakes, cookies, and other desserts.

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1. A young girl’s note to her parents giving reasons why they should buy a puppy.

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1. A website describing a local dog leash ordinance, detailing its history and the penalties for walking around with one’s dog unleashed.

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