

Author's Purpose Worksheet #2

Directions: Read each short selection. Determine what the author's purpose for writing the story may be. Your three options are **Persuade, Inform, or Entertain**. Write your answer beside the passage and list two reasons to support your analysis.

1. In naval aviation, the AWACS (Airborne Early Warning Command and Control System) plane, or Hawkeye, serves as an air traffic controller, monitoring the airspace around a carrier fleet. It is responsible for surveillance of enemy aircraft and ships as well as directing helicopters to survivors and guarding against air collisions. In addition to servicing the Navy, Hawkeye planes have been used in rescue operations of civilians during hurricane evacuations.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

2. The pilots of the Hawkeye aircraft are the unsung heroes of naval operations. The first in and the last out, these men receive none of the glory bestowed on the Top Guns of F-18 fame. Thanks to Hollywood, fighter pilots have been glorified, but the pilots of the AWACS planes work quietly and diligently, and they deserve praise for their contributions.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

3. Alonzo winked at his mother's shocked gaze and with a grin quipped, "Sausage and pepperoni pizza for breakfast makes perfect sense. Allow me to demonstrate. You have your tomato. Tomato is technically a fruit. You have your cheese. Cheese is a dairy product. You have your crust—necessary carbs for quick energy in the morning. And don't forget the sausage and pepperoni—my protein. If you think about it, it's just like bacon and eggs, toast, and orange juice." Still grinning, he added, "Really it is. Well, almost. Why are you looking at me that way?"

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

4. Tobacco companies have been in litigation, facing charges that their marketing practices in the past have targeted teenagers. Also, evidence indicates that companies adjusted levels of nicotine in their cigarettes to increase the probability that smokers would become addicted to the product to ensure higher sales in the future.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

5. Tobacco companies should be forced to pay lucrative settlements to anyone who has become addicted or adversely affected by the use of their products. Anyone who has a loved one who has succumbed to the temptation to use cigarettes can attest to the way the product can swallow souls as well as consumers' wallets. The clinical evidence of the devastation created by secondhand smoke is compelling enough for legislators to consider legal action against the powerful corporations. Unfortunately, tobacco companies have traditionally provided strong financial support for many political candidates. Write your congressional representative and express your outrage!

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

6. Do you want to add years to your life and feel better too? Here are a few tips. First, to decrease your chances of a heart attack, eat a handful of nuts each day. Also, to ease the effects of rheumatoid arthritis, be sure to include some citrus, such as orange juice, in your diet. Finally, exercise on a regular basis. Include weight-bearing activities such as walking and jogging. Also, try yoga for flexibility and stress relief.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

7. Circadian rhythms have fascinated scientists for many years. Recognizing that the eye nerves translate information to the brain about the time of day, scientists observe that we adapt to the conditions around us. Also, these researchers have recently discovered that not everyone is alike. For example, teenagers are nocturnal. That is, they are more active at night but do not function as well early in the morning.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

8. Because researchers studying circadian rhythms have discovered that most teenagers are really nocturnal, school administrators should take this into account when organizing a school day. For example, traditionally teenagers must arise in the predawn hours and arrive at school before sunrise. Groggy and unfocused, they find it difficult to concentrate and be alert before lunch. After lunch, which for many students in overcrowded high schools begins at 10:30 a.m., they are finally able to pay attention. Armed with this information, the school board should be innovative and rearrange the schedule, which would curb truancy in grades 8 through 12.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

9. Game night at our house was hilarious when we played Cranium with two teams of three. Imagine Abram, the savvy surfer, doing an impression of Marilyn Monroe singing "Happy Birthday." Or Dave, the macho bodybuilder, swinging his hips and singing a medley of Madonna's songs. But the most memorable was George's Cranium Doodle hint for the architectural term "flying buttress." It was, well, side-splittingly outrageous!

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

10. One of the creators of Cranium, Richard Tait, a former Microsoft executive, said he wanted to invent a game that allowed people to leave the board feeling good. He wanted a game that involved chance as well as skill, one in which people could have fun together and not feel so competitive. One of today's hottest-selling games, Cranium can be played by four people or several teams. While some moves on the game board may require that a team member know the name of the largest mammal on earth (the blue whale), other moves may ask participants to hum songs, pantomime people, or spell words backward. At the end, though, all the teams feel good because they have had so much fun. Every household should purchase Cranium. You will discover it is better than TV. Also, it will stimulate your brain and encourage people to have fun together.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

11. College couples have been the subjects of much research, and one thing is clear: the major reason for relationship breakups is boredom. The timing of the breakup also seems consistent with most findings. Couples tend to dissolve relationships during vacations and holidays. Who initiates the breakup is also interesting. Often it is the woman, who tends to notice first when the man is less attentive. But if the woman breaks up first, there is usually no "Can we still be friends?" situations because the man strongly feels the rejection. However, if the man initiates the breakup, there is a better chance the two will still stay in touch.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

12. There once was a writer named Fitzgerald.
On the rich and famous he'd herald.
When the story was told
Poor Gatsby, though bold,
Lost his dear Daisy, though well-appareled.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

13. If teachers would learn to recognize students' learning styles, they could tailor their teaching strategies to accommodate those in their classes. Although most people in the Western culture are visual, most lectures are geared toward the auditory learner. A good teacher should take note and provide pictures, graphs, and diagrams to enhance the lecture. Also, although some people actively process information well in groups, reflective learners need time to ponder new material. Instructors should provide collaborative opportunities from time to time and also recognize that some students need guidance and encouragement when working in groups.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

14. Students ordinarily make sense of concepts in either of two ways. For sequential learners, understanding occurs as they take in information in small, connected steps. By contrast, global learners may seem to miss the information initially but later grasp concepts in a leap of understanding.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

15. If you are interested in sharing your ideas with like-minded people who can comment on your writing, you may want to try blogging. Blogging is short for "Web logging," logging on to a Web site where you can upload your writing and ask other "bloggers" to post their comments.

Author's Purpose _____

Reason #1 _____

Reason #2 _____

Answer Key

http://wps.ablongman.com/long_henry_er_1/0,7989,1130503-,00.html

Question 1

11. In naval aviation, the AWACS (Airborne Early Warning Command and Control System) plane, or Hawkeye, serves as an air traffic controller, monitoring the airspace around a carrier fleet. It is responsible for surveillance of enemy aircraft and ships as well as directing helicopters to survivors and guarding against air collisions. In addition to servicing the Navy, Hawkeye planes have been used in rescue operations of civilians during hurricane evacuations.

The purpose of this passage is to

Correct: inform

Question 2

12. The pilots of the Hawkeye aircraft are the unsung heroes of naval operations. The first in and the last out, these men receive none of the glory bestowed on the Top Guns of F-18 fame. Thanks to Hollywood, fighter pilots have been glorified, but the pilots of the AWACS planes work quietly and diligently, and they deserve praise for their contributions.

The purpose of the passage is to

Correct: persuade

Question 3

13. Alonzo winked at his mother's shocked gaze and with a grin quipped, "Sausage and pepperoni pizza for breakfast makes perfect sense. Allow me to demonstrate. You have your tomato. Tomato is technically a fruit. You have your cheese. Cheese is a dairy product. You have your crust—necessary carbs for quick energy in the morning. And don't forget the sausage and pepperoni—my protein. If you think about it, it's just like bacon and eggs, toast, and orange juice." Still grinning, he added, "Really it is. Well, almost. Why are you looking at me that way?"

The purpose of this passage is to

Correct: entertain

Question 4

14. Tobacco companies have been in litigation, facing charges that their marketing practices in the past have targeted teenagers. Also, evidence indicates that companies adjusted levels of nicotine in their cigarettes to increase the probability that smokers would become addicted to the product to ensure higher sales in the future.

The purpose of the paragraph is to

Correct: inform

Question 5

15. Tobacco companies should be forced to pay lucrative settlements to anyone who has become addicted or adversely affected by the use of their products. Anyone who has a loved one who has succumbed to the temptation to use cigarettes can attest to the way the product can swallow souls as well as consumers' wallets. The clinical evidence of the devastation created by secondhand smoke is compelling enough for legislators to consider legal action against the powerful corporations. Unfortunately, tobacco companies have traditionally provided strong financial support for many political candidates. Write your congressional representative and express your outrage!

The purpose of the passage is to

Correct: persuade

Question 6

16. Do you want to add years to your life and feel better too? Here are a few tips. First, to decrease your chances of a heart attack, eat a handful of nuts each day. Also, to ease the effects of rheumatoid arthritis, be sure to include some citrus, such as orange juice, in your diet. Finally, exercise on a regular basis. Include weight-bearing activities such as walking and jogging. Also, try yoga for flexibility and stress relief.

The purpose of the passage is to

Correct: persuade

Question 7

17. Circadian rhythms have fascinated scientists for many years. Recognizing that the eye nerves translate information to the brain about the time of day, scientists observe that we adapt to the conditions around us. Also, these researchers have recently discovered that not everyone is alike. For example, teenagers are nocturnal. That is, they are more active at night but do not function as well early in the morning.

The purpose of the passage is to

Correct: inform

Question 8

18. Because researchers studying circadian rhythms have discovered that most teenagers are really nocturnal, school administrators should take this into account when organizing a school day. For example, traditionally teenagers must arise in the predawn hours and arrive at school before sunrise. Groggy and unfocused, they find it difficult to concentrate and be alert before lunch. After lunch, which for many students in overcrowded high schools begins at 10:30 a.m., they are finally able to pay attention. Armed with this information, the school board should be innovative and rearrange the schedule, which would curb truancy in grades 8 through 12.

The purpose of this passage is to

Correct: persuade

Question 9

19. Game night at our house was hilarious when we played Cranium with two teams of three. Imagine Abram, the savvy surfer, doing an impression of Marilyn Monroe singing "Happy Birthday." Or Dave, the macho bodybuilder, swinging his hips and singing a medley of Madonna's songs. But the most memorable was George's Cranium Doodle hint for the architectural term "flying buttress." It was, well, side-splittingly outrageous!

The purpose of this passage is to

Correct: entertain

Question 10

20. One of the creators of Cranium, Richard Tait, a former Microsoft executive, said he wanted to invent a game that allowed people to leave the board feeling good. He wanted a game that involved chance as well as skill, one in which people could have fun together and not feel so competitive. One of today's hottest-selling games, Cranium can be played by four people or several teams. While some moves on the game board may require that a team member know the name of the largest mammal on earth (the blue whale), other moves may ask participants to hum songs, pantomime people, or spell words backward. At the end, though, all the teams feel good because they have had so much fun. Every household should purchase Cranium. You will discover it is better than TV. Also, it will stimulate your brain and encourage people to have fun together.

The purpose of the passage is to

Correct: persuade

Question 11

21. College couples have been the subjects of much research, and one thing is clear: the major reason for relationship breakups is boredom. The timing of the breakup also seems consistent with most findings. Couples tend to dissolve relationships during vacations and holidays. Who initiates the breakup is also interesting. Often it is the woman, who tends to notice first when the man is less attentive. But if the woman breaks up first, there is usually no "Can we still be friends?" situations because the man strongly feels the rejection. However, if the man initiates the breakup, there is a better chance the two will still stay in touch.

The purpose of this passage is to

Correct: inform

Question 12

22. There once was a writer named Fitzgerald

On the rich and famous he'd herald.

When the story was told

Poor Gatsby, though bold,

Lost his dear Daisy, though well-appareled.

The purpose of this limerick is to

Correct: entertain

Question 13

23. If teachers would learn to recognize students' learning styles, they could tailor their teaching strategies to accommodate those in their classes. Although most people in the Western culture are visual, most lectures are geared toward the auditory learner. A good teacher should take note and provide pictures, graphs, and diagrams to enhance the lecture. Also, although some people actively process information well in groups, reflective learners need time to ponder new material. Instructors should provide collaborative opportunities from time to time and also recognize that some students need guidance and encouragement when working in groups.

The purpose of the passage is to

Correct: persuade

Question 14

24. Students ordinarily make sense of concepts in either of two ways. For sequential learners, understanding occurs as they take in information in small, connected steps. By contrast, global learners may seem to miss the information initially but later grasp concepts in a leap of understanding.

The purpose of the passage is to

Correct: inform

Question 15

25. If you are interested in sharing your ideas with like-minded people who can comment on your writing, you may want to try blogging. Blogging is short for "Web logging," logging on to a Web site where you can upload your writing and ask other "bloggers" to post their comments.

The purpose of this paragraph is to

Correct: inform