Introduction

NAME _____

Lesson 1 Why Do We Write?

In general, there are four purposes for writing:

- to entertain
- to persuade
- to explain
- to inform

Writers use many forms of writing, such as friendly letters, reports, news articles, book reviews, and poems. Here are the purposes for writing, along with the forms of writing that writers usually use.

Purpose for Writing	Forms of Writing
To entertain	stories, poems, plays, personal accounts or narratives, humorous articles, friendly letters
To persuade	letters to the editor, business letters
To explain	how-to instructions
To inform	reports, news articles, book reviews, personal accounts, friendly or business letters

Writers may combine purposes in one form of writing. For example, a writer may both entertain and inform in a news article about hedgehogs.

Here are some writing assignments that Mrs. May's students have completed this year. Write what you think the purpose of each assignment was—to entertain, persuade, explain, or inform.

Assignment	Purpose for Writing
a letter to the editor about school uniforms	_____
a story with talking animals	_____
an article about a class project	_____
instructions for using the class computers	_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS