

Author's Purpose and Tone

Exercise 1: Write the purposes of the authors who write the following pieces and explain why you think so.

Genre	Author's Purpose	Why do you think so?
Cookbooks		
Brochures		
Biographies		
Comic books		
Newspaper columns		
Advertisements		
Novels		

Exercise 2: Read the following paragraphs and write the author's purpose (persuade, inform, entertain, criticize, warn, or compare) in each of them.

1. It was a glorious morning in Alabama. The sun was shining through the trees. Alan couldn't wait to find his fishing pole and call his friend Sam to go fishing. They had a great time on these early morning fishing trips. They took their dogs with them and the dogs swam in the lake while they were fishing. It was so funny to watch those dogs paddle around the lake.

The author's purpose in this paragraph is to _____

2. The Slim-O-Matic will help you lose pounds and inches from your body in a month. Thanks to this amazing machine, you can exercise correctly as it provides a video to show you the proper way to exercise. Pay \$75.99 and begin exercising today.

The author's purpose in this paragraph is to _____

3. The Underground Railroad was a secret organization which helped slaves escape to freedom. Many slaves were able to escape using the conductors and station masters. The northern states were free states and slaves were free when they arrived in the north. Secret codes and signals were used to identify the conductors and station masters.

The author's purpose in this paragraph is to _____

4. I went to Zebra's Diner yesterday. The seating arrangement inside the restaurant was really poor as customers had to face the walls. I sat at the cleanest table I could find. Fifteen minutes after I sat down, a teenage boy with long, dirty hair finally arrived to take my order. After another 35 minutes, my food arrived, but it was cold and not as delicious as I had

hoped. Visiting Zebra's Diner was certainly an experience to remember, but one that I never hope to repeat.

The author's purpose in this paragraph is to _____

5. The potential benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) are huge. Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last. While it's physically possible to create computers more powerful than the human brain, it is certainly not advisable. AI may get so intelligent that it may start continually improving its own design. It may come to a point where AI develops weapons that we cannot even understand, so we may not be able to control it at all.

The author's purpose in this paragraph is to _____

AUTHOR'S TONE

The author's tone is related to the author's attitude toward the subject that he is writing about or how the author feels about the subject.

Exercise 3: Match the following words that are used for TONE with their meanings.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. neutral | A. ironic, making fun of something |
| 2. cautionary | B. not having positive or negative feelings about the subject, objective |
| 3. sentimental | C. worried |
| 4. concerned | D. including or making severe or negative judgments |
| 5. sarcastic | E. supportive, showing agreement, encouraging, or approving |
| 6. critical | F. giving warning |
| 7. positive | G. emotional |
| 8. pessimistic | H. being careful to avoid danger or risks |
| 9. cautious | I. hopeful |
| 10. optimistic | J. focusing on the bad part of a situation, expecting bad things to happen |

Exercise 4: Identify the author's purpose and tone in the passages below.

1. If you ask most Kazakhstanis if bride kidnapping still exists in Kazakhstan, they will say "No! Of course not!" However, bride kidnapping is a huge problem, especially in the southern region of Kazakhstan. During the time that Kazakhstan was part of the Soviet Union, it was almost eliminated. However, after the 1990's, it has increased by 70%! This is outrageous and unacceptable.

Author's Purpose: _____

Author's Tone/Attitude towards bride kidnapping: _____

2. A group of little boys try to escape from their country where there is a war, and they get on a plane. However, the plane crashes on a deserted tropical island. The boys who survive the accident elect one of them, Ralph, as their leader and try to start a fire to be rescued. The

flames quickly spread to the forest. It goes out of control, and the youngest boy in their group disappears.

Author's Purpose: _____

Author's Tone/Attitude: _____

3. Poverty has been rising in Turkey at an alarming rate. For many poor people there seems to be no escape from poverty. They believe there is no hope that their condition will change. In addition, they have social problems associated with poverty including low social status, violence, poor health and lack of education. To reduce poverty, government should take necessary steps before it is too late for millions.

Author's Purpose: _____

Author's Tone/Attitude towards poverty in Turkey: _____

Poor people's attitude towards their own situation: _____