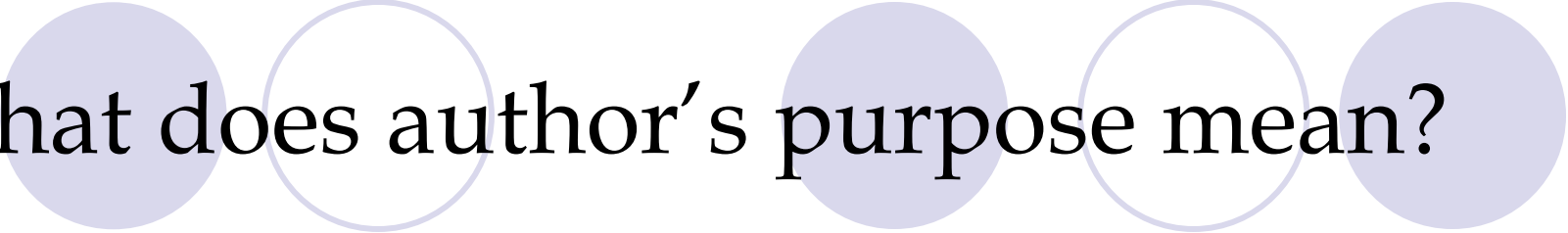


The page features five light purple circles. One is an outline at the top center, two are solid circles to its right, and two are solid circles below it. The text is centered over the top row of circles.

Author's Purpose

English I
NCVPS



What does author's purpose mean?

Most simply put, an author's purpose is his or her reason ~ or *purpose* ~ for writing.



There are four general purposes

The author may wish:

to entertain

to inform

to describe

to persuade

Our task as readers is to determine this purpose.



How do we as readers know which purpose the author had in mind?



First, let's look at the four different types of author's purpose, one at a time.



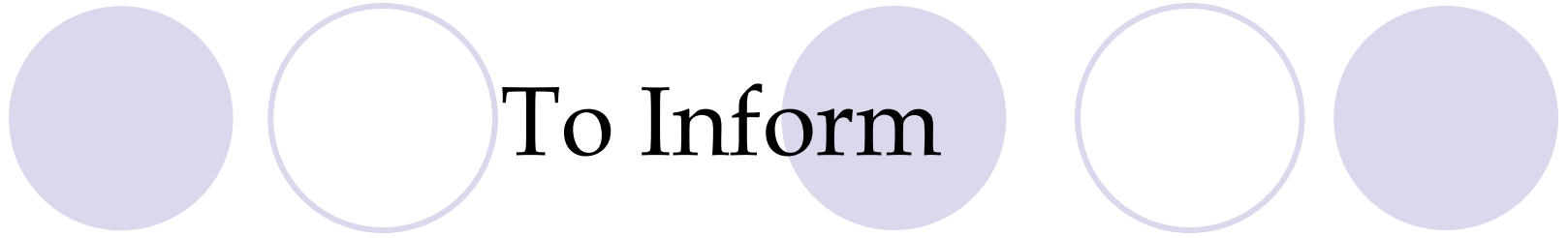
To Entertain

- When writing to entertain, one goal may be to tell a story or to describe characters, places, or events (real or imaginary).
- Examples of entertaining texts include plays, poems, stories, jokes, or even comic strips.



To Persuade

- When writing to persuade, the goal is to get the reader to agree with the writer's opinion. This type of writing is opinionated, but the author may provide facts and examples to support the opinion.
- Examples of persuasive texts include commercials, advertisements, and editorials.



To Inform

- When writing to inform, it is the author's goal to enlighten the reader with subjects that are typically real and factual. Few opinions are expressed. Sometimes the goal is to inform someone how to do something.
- The facts in an informational passage are used to teach, not to persuade. Examples of informative texts include cookbooks, textbooks, newspapers, magazines and online news sources, and historical accounts.

● 4th Grade Reading Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test
Produced by the Florida Center for Instructional Technology,



To Describe

- When writing to describe, the author's goal is to compare/contrast things through details and description. It could also be, quite simply, to describe how something looks or what it's like.
- Examples of descriptive texts include comparative texts describing the differences between things and travel brochures describing a specific location/destination.

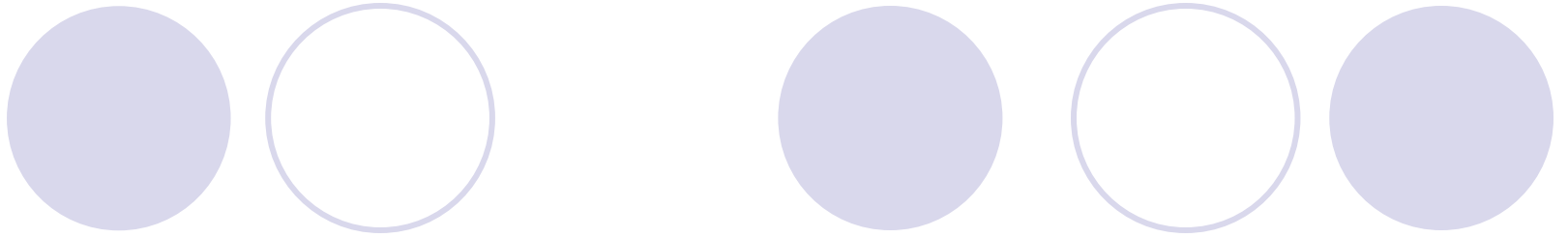
The text is centered and surrounded by five light purple circles. Two circles are solid, and three are hollow outlines. They are arranged in a row, with the first and last circles being solid, and the middle three being hollow outlines.

How do we determine the author's purpose?

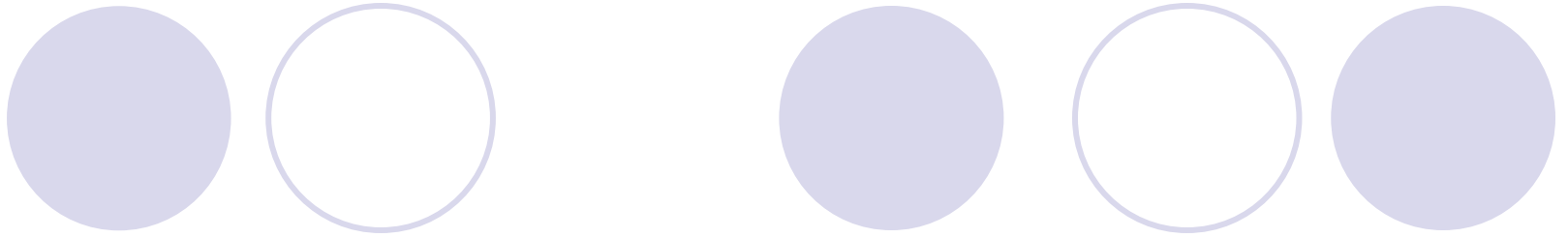
We have to take our cues from the text itself.

For example,

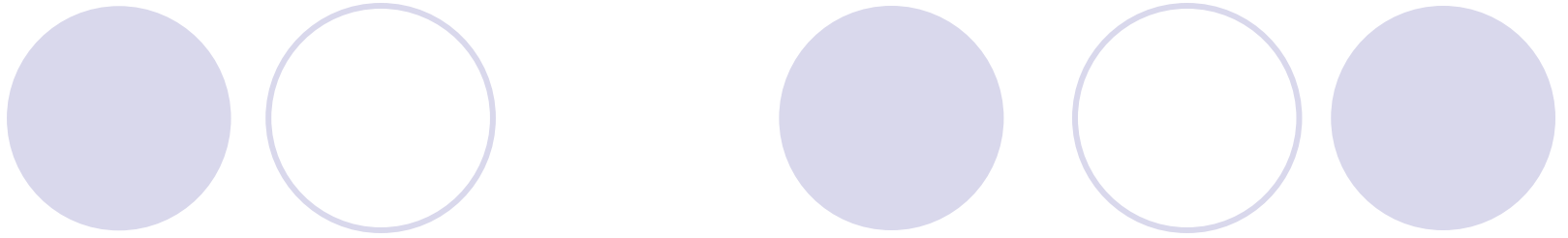
If the text is telling us about the Battle of the Bulge, the author's purpose is to *inform* us about this specific battle.



If the text is trying to convince us that smoking is bad for us and those around us, the author's purpose is to *persuade* us not to smoke.



If the text is telling us all about the white sandy beaches, the warm sunshine 350 days of the year and the relaxing spa and pool, the author's purpose is to *describe* a specific location in order to get us to want to go there!



If the text is a short story, poem, or play, a comic strip or 2-line joke, no matter how long or short it may be, the author's purpose is to *entertain* us.

It doesn't have to be funny, either, to entertain us. Drama, suspense, and mystery can be just as entertaining.



What's next?

- Ok, now that you've learned about the four main purposes for why an author writes, you will read and answer some questions that look at author's purpose. You will also take a test on this skill.
- Feel free to review this power point at any time. Or, you can review your notes.