



Reading On The Move

What's the Point?

Author's Purpose

Why do people read? People read to:



- learn new things
- understand the world around them
- have fun

Why do people write? People write to:



- inform
- entertain
- persuade
- reflect
- express

It is important to understand the author's purpose before you begin to read. For example, if you are trying to gather facts, you wouldn't want to read something that is intended to entertain. If you wanted to relax with a funny story, you wouldn't read a math textbook.

Non-fiction is a type of literature that explains or gives information about a topic. Examples of non-fiction literature are newspaper articles, textbooks, encyclopedias, biographies, etc.

Example: *In World War II, there were Native American men who served in the United States Marine Corps. These men developed codes based on their native language, which they used to communicate secret information for the United States military. These men earned the name "Code talkers."*

Fiction is made-up information. It often makes you feel emotions and a sense of connection with characters. Examples of fiction literature are novels, short stories, fairy tales, etc.

Example: *It was just about the end of his shift. Dave counted down the minutes until he could leave work and start the weekend. This weekend was going to be especially fun because he was going camping. He looked forward to spending time with his family and his dog, Briscoe.*

Persuasive writing presents the author's opinions, feelings, and beliefs. Persuasive literature can be essays, newspaper articles, advertisements, speeches, etc.

Example: *The Garden Chop 3000 will make cutting vegetables a cinch! Chop anything from uncooked potatoes to soft, ripe tomatoes. This amazing product will make dinnertime simple, fast, and fun! The Garden Chop 3000 can be yours today for the price of \$19.99.*

Read each passage and decide whether it is non-fiction, fiction, or persuasive literature. Circle your answer.

1. The hair whipped through her hair as she tightened her grip. She was amazed at the softness of the beast's fur. How could a creature so big fly through the air? Never in her life did she think she would be flying through the air on the back of a magical creature.

Non-fiction

Fiction

Persuasive

2. Do you want to be the best looking person around? Then you need UltraBright! This teeth-whitening kit will brighten up your smile in just 3 days! Those messy gel strips and uncomfortable teeth trays are a thing of the past. UltraBright uses a special ultraviolet light to get your teeth the whitest they can be. Order now and receive a second UltraBright treatment free!

Non-fiction

Fiction

Persuasive

3. While many believe watermelons are in the melon family, they are really a type of berry. Botanists, or people who study plants, refer to watermelons as pepo. Pepos are berries that have a thick rind and fleshy center, unlike traditional berries that have a soft outer skin.

Non-fiction

Fiction

Persuasive

The newspaper is a source where you can find different types of literature. The newspaper is made up of several different sections and topics. The most important local, national, and world news is on the front page and continues through the first few pages. Classified ads are usually at the end. Here is a list of the most common topics and sections of a newspaper:

| Topic / Section | Definition |
|----------------------------------|---|
| news stories (articles) | cover important events happening in the world, the nation, and the community |
| human interest stories | cover stories about everyday people who do interesting or challenging things |
| business section | news about business and the stock market |
| sports section | news about sports events, games, and scores |
| editorials | essays that tell people's opinions about news issues common to most people |
| entertainment | news, advertisements, and information about movies, shows, and other events that people can attend |
| classified advertisements | small ads written by people and businesses to tell about things for sale or jobs available, among other items |
| weather reports | forecasts of local weather, and also may include weather around the country and the world |
| comics | cartoons, puzzles |
| advertisements | pictures and words that show products for sale in local businesses and stores. Advertising is the way that the newspaper makes the money it needs to publish the paper. |

Let's take a look at a news article. You will notice that just the facts are presented. There should be no opinions in a news article.

Study: Smoking bans in eateries influence teens

Steve LeBlanc, The Associated Press

BOSTON – A Massachusetts study suggests that restaurant smoking bans may play a big role in persuading teens not to become smokers.

Youths who lived in towns with strict bans were 40 percent less likely to become regular smokers than those in communities with no bans or weak ones, the researchers reported in the May issue of the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*.

The findings back up the idea that smoking bans discourage tobacco use in teens by sending the message that smoking is frowned upon in the community, as well as simply by reducing their exposure to smokers in public places, said Dr. Michael Siegel of Boston University School of Public Health, the study's lead author.

"When kids grow up in an environment where they don't see smoking, they are going to think it's not socially acceptable (most people don't like it)," he said. "If they perceive a lot of other people are smoking, they think it's the norm."

Siegel and his colleagues (people he works with) tracked 2,791 children between ages 12 and 17 who lived throughout Massachusetts. There were no statewide restrictions when the study began in 2001, but about 100 cities and towns had enacted (made a law) a hodge-podge of laws restricting smoking in workplaces, bars, or restaurants.

The teens were followed for four years to see how many tried smoking and how many eventually became smokers. Overall, about 9 percent became smokers—defined as smoking more than 100 cigarettes.

In towns without bans or where smoking was restricted to a designated area, that rate was nearly 10 percent. But in places with tough bans prohibiting smoking in restaurants, just under 8 percent of the teens became smokers.

The study found that having a smoker as a parent or a close friend was a factor in predicting whether children experiment with cigarettes.

But strong bans had a bigger influence on whether smoking grew into a habit, reducing their chances of becoming smokers by 40 percent.

"There is really no other smoking intervention program that could cut almost in half the rate of smoking," Siegel said.

Based on what you have read, answer the questions below.

4. Where was the information of the study reported?

5. Who was the study's lead author?

6. In what state did the study take place?

7. Who participated in the study?

8. What effect did the smoking bans have on the percent of people becoming smokers?

9. What is the author's purpose for writing this news article?



Now, let's take a look at a *Letter to the Editor*. This is something that would be found in the Editorial section of a newspaper. The purpose of a Letter to the Editor is for readers to express their opinions on issues in the community or it can be a response to an article published in the paper at an earlier date. If the letter is to file a complaint, the author should state the issue with examples, and offer possible solutions.

Dear Editor:

How many times have you seen a 16 year old kid, baseball cap on backwards, loud music playing on the radio, talking on the cell phone...and driving a car...all at the same time? Many times, right? Younger teens do not have the maturity or experience to drive a car. The age for getting a driver's license should be moved up to age 21.

At age 21, people are more mature. At that age, most of them need a car to drive to jobs that can be farther away than their neighborhood McDonald's or K-Mart. They also have more experience to make better decisions. In addition, they are not trying to prove that they are "cool" by driving fast, or making a lot of noise with their tires. For example, because younger teens like to take more chances, they may try to drive when it's dangerous, such as in bad weather or when they are too tired. They don't realize yet how risky it can be to drive in heavy rain; they won't wait a few minutes until it stops raining.

Driver's licenses should be given only to those 21 years of age and older. Having teens wait a few more short years may save the lives of our young friends, brothers, and sisters.

Sincerely,

Cindy Smith

Answer the questions based on the information gathered in the Letter to the Editor.

10.What is the author's concern?

11.What is the author's proposal?

12.What reasons does the author give for changing the driving age to 21?

13.What is the author's purpose for writing this letter?

14.What do you feel is the appropriate driving age? Explain your answer.



Movie reviews can be found in the Entertainment section of a newspaper. Movie reviews usually give a brief summary of the movie and tell the reader whether or not they should see the film. These types of articles offer an opinion. Let's take a look at one.

“Under the Same Moon” (“La Misma Luna”)

by Jan Stuart

On the chance that you have any more boxes of tissues left from the flu season, bring them by the truckload to the movie “Under the Same Moon.” This movie is about a mother-son love that goes right to your heart, from its lively beginning to its leap-for-joy ending.

Even some Southwestern border patrol police may think about giving up their jobs after watching this very emotional story of a Mexican boy's adventurous journey to Los Angeles. Nine-year-old Carlos “*Carlitos*” Reyes (“scene bandit” Adrian Alonso) gets daily long-distance phone calls from his single mother, Rosario (the beautiful Kate Del Castillo), who works two maid jobs a day in Los Angeles. She hopes to someday earn enough money to send for her son.

When Carlitos' grandmother dies, the smart kid pays a pair of American students to smuggle him into the United States. He uses money from his mother's savings and his own part-time job, which is somewhat illegal. We start to lose our confidence in the two students, and the tense border crossing turns into a series of close calls which force Carlitos to think quickly and intelligently.

Screenwriter Ligiah Villalobos puts in plenty of interesting events and characters that Carlitos and his mother encounter. The most important is Enrique (Eugenio Derbez), a migrant worker who becomes Carlitos' unlikely protector, and Paco (Gabriel Porras), a polite security guard who is trying to win Rosario's love.

There are so many dramatic events and feel-good moments that this movie can be enjoyed by almost every person. It is a well-made movie that leaves all people with a hope for humanity....and lots of balled-up tissues!

Based on what you have read, answer the questions below.

15. What was the name of the movie?

16. Who is the author of the movie review?

17. Why does the first paragraph mention bringing left-over tissues to the movie?

18. Does the author think you should see the movie or skip the movie? Explain your answer.



Even advertisements have an author and a purpose. The purpose of the advertisement is to get the reader to buy or use a product or service. Look at the advertisements below and answer the questions.



19. What is this advertising?

20. Based on the picture, what is the advertisement saying to you? Why?



21. What is this advertising?

22. Based on the picture, what is the advertisement saying to you? Why?

Answer Key

1. Fiction
2. Persuasive
3. Non-fiction
4. Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
5. Dr. Michael Siegel
6. Massachusetts
7. 2791 children between the ages of 12-17
8. Smoking bans reduced the chance of youths becoming smokers by 40%.
9. This article was written to inform the reader of the details and findings of the study.
10. The author's concern is the age at which people should be allowed to drive.
11. The author would like to change the driving age from 16 to 21.
12. The author believes that 21-year-olds are more mature, have a need to drive to jobs, are more experienced, are better decision makers, and don't care if they are "cool."
13. This article was written to persuade the reader to believe the driving age should be changed.
14. This question should be answered with your opinion of the subject. You should give reasons why you feel the way you do.
15. "Under the Same Moon"
16. Jan Stuart
17. The author suggests you bring tissues because it is an emotional film and you might cry.
18. The author feels you should see the film. You can tell this by the positive language she uses: lively beginning, leap-for-joy ending, interesting, feel-good moments, enjoyed, well-made.
19. Katrina's Shoes
20. This shoe store has many varieties of shoes.
21. Eye glasses
22. These eye glasses are for young, hip people and they are not expensive.