

Identify Author's Purpose 2

STRATEGY: IDENTIFY AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

TEACH/PRACTICE

REVIEW/RETEACH

Student Objectives

- Identify the author's purpose in writing a letter.
- Ask questions to identify the methods used by the author to achieve his or her purpose.

Materials

- Passage: Dear Ms. Green
- Graphic Organizer: Identify Author's Purpose 2

Build Background

Ask students about the packaging of products they buy. Discuss different packaging materials, such as plastic, paper, and cardboard. Then present the following ideas:

- Some manufacturers use excess packaging to make their products more appealing.
- This packaging ends up in landfills, where garbage is dumped and then covered with soil. Some large cities are running out of landfill space.
- It takes a long time for plastics to decompose in landfills. Recycling plastics requires a lot of energy.

Teach

Explain to students that authors write for a purpose. They may write to inform, to entertain, or to persuade. Identifying an author's purpose enables students to understand why an author wrote a piece and how the author feels about the subject matter. It will also help students choose the appropriate comprehension strategies. Point out that when an author writes to persuade, he or she tries to convince the audience to think in a certain way and/or to take action.

Guided Practice

Distribute "**Dear Ms. Green.**" Read the letter together. Tell students that as they read they should ask themselves what the author's purpose is. Then invite them to answer the following comprehension questions:

Paragraph 1 *Why are the students writing this letter?* (They want to persuade the store not to sell items with too much packaging.)

Paragraph 2 *What information did the students give to support their point of view?* (They went to the store and found 72 items that had at least four layers of packaging.)

Paragraph 3 *Why did the students give such a detailed explanation of the cookie package?* (to let the manager know how much unnecessary packaging is used for many products)

Paragraph 4 *What do the students say is the best way to get manufacturers to use less packaging?* (The store should not sell overpackaged products.)

Explain that identifying the author's purpose helps readers recognize that information is being presented for a reason. Discuss how some readers, such as product and packaging manufacturers, might disagree with the ideas presented.

Apply

Distribute the **Graphic Organizer**. Ask students to complete the organizer to show what the author's purpose was in writing the letter. Discuss how they arrived at their answers.