Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff®
What’s the Author’s Purpose? Poster. Authors write with a
purpose. They want to persuade, inform, or entertain their
readers. This is an interactive resource to teach, support,
and reinforce the author’s purpose to persuade, inform,
and entertain.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
• What’s the Author’s Purpose? Poster, 19” x 24”
• This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Displaying the Poster
Make a copy of each page of the Really Good Stuff® Activity
Guide. Hang your What’s the Author’s Purpose? Poster in any
area that is easily accessible for the teacher and has an
unobstructed view for the students.

Introducing the What’s the Author’s Purpose? Poster
Begin by assessing the students’ prior knowledge. Why do they
think the author would have a purpose for writing a story
and/or article? What kind of questions do they ask themselves
while reading to figure out the purpose? What does the
author’s purpose mean?
• Persuade: to convince the reader of a certain point
  of view
• Inform: to teach or give information to the reader
• Entertain: to hold the attention of the reader
  through enjoyment

Activity Ideas

What Slice of Pie Is It?
Photocopy the What Slice of Pie Is It? Reproducible. Introduce
a picture book to the students. Show the students the cover
of the text and ask them to predict what they think the
author’s purpose might be by using the title and cover
illustrations only. The students will shade in one slice of
the pie. Next, complete a picture walk with the students. Again ask
them to shade in a slice of pie, which predicts the author’s
purpose. Lastly, after reading the text, ask the students to
shade in a slice of pie on the third pie to illustrate what they
believe the author’s purpose is. Also, have the students
complete the written question, “What evidence from the text
supports the author’s purpose?” Have students compare their
results and then have a class discussion.

For intermediate students, have them work in small groups and
give each group the same and/or different text to complete the
activity. Give each group a transparency on which they can
display their evidence for the purpose that supports the
author’s purpose.

Name the Author’s Purpose
Choose a combination of text, fiction, nonfiction, poetry,
historical fiction, folktales, etc., and set the room up with
centers having a book at each center. Depending on how many
books you use, have the students work in partners or in small
groups. As the students are moving through the centers, ask
them to take notes about each text, focusing on the type of
organization and/or traits and the author’s purpose. After the
allotted time, reconvene as a whole group, discuss each text
and chart the students’ ideas.

Identify and Write Your Own What’s the Author’s
Purpose?
Over the next several days focus on one of the slices -
persuade, inform, and entertain. Select a text that models one
of the author’s purposes. Read it aloud and discuss what the
author incorporates in the text to show purpose. Next ask the
students to write a story that focuses on the same slice of
the pie. Complete this activity with all three purposes -
persuade, inform, and entertain.

Author’s Purpose Scavenger Hunt
Ask each student to bring in a newspaper from home and/or
provide newspapers. Have each student and/or small group cut
out titles of different articles. Have each group display their
titles under the correct heading - persuade, inform, and
entertain. As a group, read each title aloud and ask the
students what the author’s purpose is. Have the group explain
what word and/or phrases support their choice for the
author’s purpose.

What’s the Author’s Purpose? Role Playing
After your students have an understanding of each author’s
purpose - entertain, persuade, and inform - have the students
work in small groups to create a skit that focuses on one
purpose. Have the groups perform their skits for the class.
After seeing each skit, let the audience reveal what they think
the author’s purpose was.

Author’s Purpose Book Wall
Create three columns labeled persuade, inform, and entertain.
As the class and/or students read books and poetry, they fill
out the Book Wall Pie Chart Reproducible. On the reproducible,
the students shade in a pie piece. They write the title of a book
and write a sentence(s) to explain why they choose the
author’s purpose. Then the students can hang the Book Wall
Pie Charts under the correct column heading.

Students can use these Book Wall Pie Charts as reference of
what to read next. Additionally, you can do author comparisons
and graph data.
Using the cover, predict what you think the author’s purpose is.

After a picture walk, what do you think the author’s purpose is?

After reading/listening to the literature, what do you think the author’s purpose is?

What evidence from the text supports the author’s purpose?
1. What is the author’s purpose in writing this selection?

2. The author wants to tell you about______________ to show you that

3. Which sentence best states the author’s purpose for writing this selection?

4. Provide three details from the selection to support the author’s purpose for writing this selection.