

Author's Viewpoint, Tone, and Purpose

The author's feelings and viewpoint affect a story. In order to fully understand a text, a student must recognize the author's viewpoint, tone, purpose, and details included in the story.

An author's viewpoint is how the author feels about or toward the story.

Tone is the feeling or mood of the story.

Purpose relates to why the author wrote this particular story. The purpose of a story can be to persuade, to inform, or to entertain the reader.

The details an author includes are important to understanding tone, purpose and viewpoint.

It is helpful if the student begins to recognize the effect of the author in all types of reading. Have the student choose a short story, an editorial from the newspaper, and passage from a textbook. For each text have the student fill out the chart below:

Five important details:

How the article makes the reader feel:

Purpose (inform, persuade, entertain):

Working with the answers from the chart, you and the student can discuss the importance of the author.

Possible questions for the discussion:

Does he or she think the author likes the subject of the article/story/text?

Why did the author include certain details?

Would it make a difference if someone else had written the article/story/text?