

# Analyzing an Author's Purpose

## Purpose

This routine can be used to help students identify the main idea of a text or to recognize how word choice affects the tone and purpose of a text. The goal is to help students become more mindful when reading and to recognize the author's purpose in a text.

## Time

15 - 30 minutes

## Supported Standards

CCR Reading Anchor 6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text

## Materials

- Examples of word choice and author's purpose (optional extra support)
- A text to analyze
- A graphic organizer with questions

## Procedure

This routine can be used when students are struggling to identify the main idea and/or purpose of a piece of writing.

**Optional introduction to the routine** (for students new to the routine):

Students read the three short example texts on the included handout and make observations about word choice. With the tutor's support, students answer the three questions:

- i. What words stand out to you?
- ii. What is the effect?
- iii. What is the author's purpose? To inform, to persuade, or to describe

**Regular routine** (for students familiar with the routine):

1. Students read the questions in the graphic organizer to prepare to read the text.
2. Students read the text you selected for them to analyze. Encourage them to underline words and phrases as they read.
3. Students complete the questions in the graphic organizer.
4. Teacher reviews notes and answers with the student(s).