

Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons the author has for writing.
- An author might have more than one reason for writing. Four common reasons are to persuade, to inform, to express ideas or feelings, and to entertain.

Directions Before you read the passage below, predict the author's purpose and write it in the diagram. Then read the passage and complete the rest of the diagram.

Ship's Crew Needed Immediately

The *Flora* will be leaving San Francisco on Tuesday, May 2, and a crew is needed before departure. The *Flora* is a cargo ship that will be carrying lumber to several cities along the coast of South America. It is a four-masted ship with plenty of living space.

What better way is there to see the world than aboard a beauty like the *Flora*? Of course, you will also be paid standard wages for your service on our ship. If you are interested, please come by the transportation office and ask for Mr. Selvingson.

Possible answers given for 1–3, 5.

Before Reading		After Reading
Prediction of Author's Purpose or Purposes	Reasons for Prediction	Author's Actual Purpose or Purposes
1. I think the author's purpose is to persuade the reader.	2. The title sounds like an advertisement. 3. Skimming the passage, I see that there are facts about the ship but also opinions about what it's like being on board the ship.	4. The author's purpose is to persuade the reader.

5. Do you think the author met his or her purpose? Why or why not?

I believe the author did meet his or purpose, because the passage makes a good case for joining the crew of the *Flora*.



Home Activity Your child used a graphic organizer to predict and then to confirm the author's purpose in a text. Together, look at one section of a book or an article in a magazine. Make predictions about the author's purpose. Then read the section or article to learn whether or not your prediction was correct.