

Name _____

Author's Purpose

- Authors have many reasons for writing, among them: to **persuade**, to **inform**, to **entertain** and to **express**.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Possible responses given.

Some ships are built for taking passengers and cargo from one place to another. In the 1800s, passenger ships were not always very comfortable. Ships took a long time to travel from port to port, keeping passengers on the ocean for weeks at a time. Other ships carried goods from port to port. Ships that carry goods are called cargo ships. Cargo is the freight that a ship or boat carries.

1. What is the author's primary purpose for writing this paragraph?

to inform

2. Give an example from the text to justify why you think this is the primary purpose.

inclusion of many factual details, such as time to travel from port to port; explanation of the function of cargo ships

3. What is the author's secondary purpose for writing?

to express—to describe in a way that will evoke a mood or feeling in the reader.

4. Give an example from the text to justify why you think this is another purpose.

inclusion of details about life at sea and comforts on the ships

5. If the author meant to persuade, what kinds of information or language might he have used?

Opinions about ships or life at sea might have been stated.