

Author's Purpose • Summarize

- The **author's purpose** is the reason an author writes something.
- An author may try to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express ideas and feelings.
- Different parts of a piece of writing may have different purposes.
- **Summarizing** the main ideas and details as you read can help you figure out the **author's purpose**.

Directions Read the following passage.

Northwest Indians were expert basket makers. They used baskets to store food, make food, and serve food. The baskets were woven so tightly they held water.

The people used thin sticks of wood or reeds. They wove grass or threads made

from roots between the sticks. They pulled the threads tightly together.

If you ever go to the Northwest, you can see these baskets. You can buy them in stores. You can also see pictures of them on the Internet.

Directions Complete the chart. Give the author's purpose for each part. Then explain the purpose.

	Purpose	Why do you think so?
Beginning	Inform: give information about the baskets.	1. <u>The first paragraph describes the baskets.</u>
Middle	2. <u>Inform: Tell how the baskets were made.</u>	3. <u>The second paragraph tells how they made the baskets.</u>
End	4. <u>Inform: Tell where the baskets can be seen.</u>	5. <u>The last paragraph tells where to go to see or buy the baskets.</u>



Home Activity Your child described the author's purpose for a piece of writing. Authors may have more than one purpose. The purpose of nonfiction is often to inform. Read nonfiction articles together. Ask your child to explain why the author wrote it. Remember, the author may have had more than one purpose.