

Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons an author has for writing.
- An author may have one or more reasons for writing. He or she may want *to inform*, *to persuade*, *to entertain*, or *to express* a mood or feeling.

Directions Read the passages and write the purpose you think the author had for writing each.

1. When was the last time you looked up at the night sky? Have you ever wanted to poke your finger through the stars in the night sky?

entertain

2. It was a dark and stormy night when the old carriage wobbled along the cobbled path. "Just one star could give some light," the old driver whispered to himself. "If I could just see the dog star, I might be able to get through this long dark night."

express a mood

3. Each constellation has its own area of the sky. Many constellations were named after gods and heroes from Greek and Roman myths. People also like to name constellations after animals.

inform

4. We believe that pollution is disturbing the night sky. We need astronomers to help us. We want astronomers to show people why stars and their constellations are important to all humans. We need people to stop polluting the air. Please help us save the night sky.

persuade

Directions Write a short paragraph about the stars. Choose one purpose for your paragraph. Write so that your purpose will be easily understood.

Responses will vary.
