Author’s Purpose Activity

Directions: Read the descriptions of each item and decide which best describes the author’s purpose for writing the passage. Choose entertain, persuade, or inform as your answer. After choosing an answer explain why you chose that answer using complete sentences.

1. The Great Pyramid of Giza is located in Egypt. This essay is going to explain some facts about the Great Pyramid.

   Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

   Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________________

2. An essay about how much fun skiing is and how the sport can improve your health.

   Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

   Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

3. This brochure is about the services that are available at a local stable.

   Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

   Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

4. This pamphlet explains how jogging or running can strengthen the heart and is found at a doctor’s office.

   Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

   Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

5. This story, written by a fourth grader, describes a visit to the circus.

   Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

   Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________
6. A poem about the night before Thanksgiving at a local school.

Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

7. A skit about dealing with bullies is produced by a small group of students.

Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

8. This six page booklet explains how to assemble the grill that was just purchased.

Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

9. The blog discusses the why Pepsi is better than Coke.

Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

10. This Wikipedia article provides the history of football in America.

Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

11. This essay describes the first day of middle school.

Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________

12. This online article explains how to make a Power Point presentation.

Author’s Purpose: _________________________________

Explain Your Answer:_______________________________________
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Answer Key:

1. The Great Pyramid of Giza is located in Egypt. This essay is going to explain some facts about the Great Pyramid.

   Author’s Purpose: ___Inform_______________________________

   Explain Your Answer: This article presents facts making it an informative essay.

2. An essay about how much fun skiing is and how the sport can improve your health.

   Author’s Purpose: ____Persuade______________________________

   Explain Your Answer: This essay is attempting to persuade the reader that skiing is fun which is not true for every person.

3. This brochure is about the services that are available at a local stable.

   Author’s Purpose: ______Inform_______________________________

   Explain Your Answer: The brochure is providing facts about the stable and its services.

4. This pamphlet explains how jogging or running can strengthen the heart and is found at a doctor’s office.

   Author’s Purpose: ___Inform_______________________________

   Explain Your Answer: Two clues give away this answer; one is that running being able to strengthen the heart is true and the pamphlet is found in the doctor’s office. Pamphlets are usually fact based also.

5. This story, written by a fourth grader, describes a visit to the circus.

   Author’s Purpose: ________Entertain______________________________

   Explain Your Answer: This story is entertaining because it is one person’s take on going to the circus.

6. A poem about the night before Thanksgiving at a local school.

   Author’s Purpose: __Entertain______________________________
Explain Your Answer: Informational poems tend to be full of facts and poems are not usually informational. However a poem about what happens at school the night before Thanksgiving would be entertaining.

7. A skit about dealing with bullies is produced by a small group of students.
   Author’s Purpose: _____Inform____________________________
   Explain Your Answer: The skit could be entertaining and informative, but because ways to deal with bullies is presented, the skit is informative.

8. This six page booklet explains how to assemble the grill that was just purchased.
   Author’s Purpose: _______Inform___________________________
   Explain Your Answer: This booklet is explaining how something is to be put together.

9. The blog discusses the why Pepsi is better than Coke.
   Author’s Purpose: _____Persuade___________________________
   Explain Your Answer: The blog writer wants the reader to believe that Pepsi is better than Coke.

10. This Wikipedia article provides the history of football in America.
    Author’s Purpose: ___Inform______________________________
    Explain Your Answer: Wikipedia is not the best source of information, but an article about the history of football is informative, even if it is not completely accurate.

11. This essay describes the first day of middle school.
    Author’s Purpose: _____Entertain__________________________
    Explain Your Answer: This essay is descriptive and is entertaining because it is one person’s story about an event.

12. This online article explains how to make a Power Point presentation.
    Author’s Purpose: _______Inform___________________________
    Explain Your Answer: The article will explain the steps taken to create a Power Point presentation. No opinions are offered, just an explanation.