

Real-World Writing Purposes

Purpose	Explanation
Express and Reflect	The writer expresses or reflects on his or her own life and experiences. ... often looks backward in order to look forward.
Inform and Explain	The writer states a main point and purpose. ... tries to present the information in a surprising way.
Evaluate and Judge	The writer focuses on the worth of person, object, idea, or other phenomenon. ... usually specifies the criteria to the object being seen as "good" or "bad."
Inquire and Explore	The writer wrestles with a question or problem. ... hooks with the problem and lets the reader watch them wrestle with it.
Analyze and Interpret	The writer seeks to analyze and interpret phenomena that are difficult to understand or explain.
Take a Stand/ Propose a Solution	The writer seeks to persuade audiences to accept a particular position on a controversial issue. ... describes the problem, proposes a solution, and provides justification.

Adapted from Bean, Chappell, and Gillam (2003).