

Name _____

Author's Purpose

- The **author's purpose** is the reason or reasons the author has for writing.
- An author may write to persuade, to inform, to entertain, or to express himself or herself.

Directions Read the following passage.

Levi Coffin was an abolitionist. He helped people who had been enslaved head north to find freedom. Levi was part of the Underground Railroad for many years. A few thousand enslaved people passed through his home in Indiana on their way to Canada. Levi was able to

give them supplies for their journey. Eventually, people called Levi the "President of the Underground Railroad." Although it was illegal at the time to help people escape slavery, Levi took a risk to do what he knew was right.

Directions Complete the diagram by answering the questions about the author's purpose.

Questions	Answers
What information is the author providing you with?	1.
For what purpose did the author write this passage?	2.
How do you know?	3.
Why did the author not use "I" in the passage?	4.
What idea is the author trying to convey in the last sentence?	5.

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Home Activity Your child analyzed the author's purpose in a nonfiction passage. Look at an article in a newspaper or magazine. Read the article with your child and discuss what you each think is the author's purpose.