Determining the Author’s Perspective

RI.7.6 Determine the author’s perspective and purpose in a text, and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.
What is a perspective?

How the author feels about the topic (opinions and beliefs).

Sometimes you can tell if the author is **FOR** or **AGAINST** something.

Examples: Bananas are the worst fruit.
How do I find author’s perspective?

- What does the author think?
- What does he/she believe?
- What is his/her attitude about the subject?
- What is his/her take on the situation?

Text Evidence: The reason(s) an author gives to support the way they feel about the topic.

Example: Bananas are the most healthful fruit. According to thatsitfruit.com, “Bananas can help lower blood pressure and protect heart health due to high potassium and low salt content.”
Example 1:

What is the author’s perspective in this sentence:

“The sooner we move out of this dump,” said Jack, “the happier I’ll be.”

How do you know?
Answer:

The sooner we move out of this dump the happier I’ll be.

Author’s Perspective Answer: He has negative attitude about it. This is evident by his **word choice** – calling his house a dump
Example 2:

What is the author’s perspective in this sentence:

Mrs. Jones’s class is challenging, but I learn so much and feel confident about the work.

How do you know?
Mrs. Jones’s class is challenging, but I learn so much and feel confident about the work.

Author’s Perspective Answer: The speaker has a positive attitude about it because her word choice of “learn so much” lets us know she is happy to have Mrs. Jones as a teacher. The speaker also gives a positive example of feeling confident.
Example 3:

What is the author’s perspective in this sentence:

The trend toward full day kindergarten programs in public schools is taking its toll on the young children of today. Recent studies showing improved reading skills may be misleading. This improvement in reading is unlikely to carry on as these children progress through elementary school.

How do you know?
Answer:

The trend toward full-day kindergarten programs in public schools is taking its toll on the young children of today. Recent studies showing improved reading skills may be misleading. This improvement in reading is unlikely to carry on as these children progress through elementary school.

Author’s Perspective Answer: The writer is not in favor of it. They give negative examples of it “taking its toll” and the word choice of “misleading” is also negative.
What is author’s purpose?

1. Persuade ➔ Argue
2. Inform:
3. Entertain ➔ Narrate
1. Argue: The author tries to convince you something is right or wrong OR change your own opinion.
2. Inform: The author give you facts and statistics about a particular topic.
3. Narrate: The author tells you a fictional story, or a story about his/her life.
How do I find the author’s purpose?

Think about the text:

- Did the author tell a story? (Narrate)
- Did the author give you facts? (Inform)
- Did the author try to teach you something? (Inform)
- Did the author try to CONVINCE you? (Argue)
- Did the author want to change your opinion? (Argue)
Purpose Example #1:

1. On September 23, a large cavalry troop from Fort Robinson arrived at the camp of Sitting Bull. Just as he was about to give a welcoming speech, a commotion broke out among the watching warriors. Rifles were fired, and the meeting ended in a massacre of the soldiers.

The author’s purpose is to:

a. describe Sitting Bull’s camp.

b. argue the reader that the Indians were bloodthirsty.

c. tell the events leading to a massacre.

d. explain the problems of the Calvary.
Dear Tall, Dark and Handsome — This is your lucky day! The girl of your dreams is just a phone call away. I am 5’ 10”, slim, pretty, and only 23. I love pop music, good books, yummy foods, and foreign travel. Give me a ring any day after 6 P.M. Your gal, Jackie.

The author’s purpose is to

a. convince the reader to call the writer.
b. describe the writer objectively.
c. criticize the writer’s lack of intelligence.
d. entertain the reader with some interesting facts.
Purpose Example #3:

To make a delicious New England pie, proceed as follows: take some water and flour; then construct a bullet-proof dough. Make this into a disk-shaped object. Dry it for a couple of days in a mild temperature. Pour on stewed dried apples and slabs of citron; leave it in a safe place until it petrifies. Serve cold at breakfast and invite your mother-in-law.

The author’s purpose is to

a. tell the steps in making a pie.
b. make fun of (satirize) New England cooking.
c. persuade the reader to buy New England pie.
d. describe New England pie.
Determining Author’s Perspective

Gallery Walk
A Christmas Carol: Author’s Perspective
Twilight (2008)
Author’s Perspective Gallery Walk

There are 3 articles:

1. Stay in your color (yellow, blue, or green)
2. Read the WHOLE article
3. SHARE the article
4. Answer question 1 & 2 in the alloted time
5. NO RUNNING, GRABBING, or ARGUING.

#3 & #4 should have THREE SENTENCES EACH
Author’s Perspective Gallery Walk: Twilight Interviews

Twilight' Interview #1

Clip - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fREjpeShur0

'Twilight' Interview #2

The Ellen Degeneres Show

Clip #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCmleIgAoag