



Prepare Yourself

How to identify and comment on writers' purpose and viewpoint, and overall effect on the reader

You will need to be able to identify the writer's purpose:

Some of the most common are: to explain, to inform, to advise, to persuade, to review

Adjectives to describe tone (select the most appropriate): impersonal, warm, friendly, passionate, emotive, reassuring, aggressive, humorous, bitter, enthusiastic, official, authoritative

These adjectives could also be described as the **effect the text has on the reader e.g. they make it sound...**

If there are any words here you are unfamiliar with you will need to look them up in the dictionary.

Activity One- Can you correctly identify the purpose and tone for the texts in the table.

Text	Writer's Purpose	Tone
Food before action can help In fact, many top-class athletes do better when they have snacked before, or even during, exercise (think of all those tennis players shown in the middle of long Wimbledon matches scoffing bananas!).		
As soon as you see Moto GP in action you can't help but be amazed by how good it looks. Gorgeous, solid, photo-realistic, the verbal accolades could go on but the obvious point is that it's the best-looking console racer to date. And yes, that does include <i>Gran Turismo 1 and 2</i> and Dreamcast's <i>Ferrari 355 Challenge</i> .		
Do I drive my car through the tunnel? No, you drive your car onto one of the shuttles which carry you and your vehicle in safety. As all the railway and shuttle locomotives using the tunnel are electric, the air is not polluted with exhaust fumes.		
Why Do Volcanoes Erupt? Deep within the Earth it is so hot that some rocks slowly melt and become a thick flowing substance		

called magma. Because it is lighter than the solid rock around it, magma rises and collects in magma chambers.		
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

You will also need to think about their viewpoint, and how they have communicated this to the reader

Questions that help students explore author's viewpoint:

- What opinions or belief statements are evident in the article?
- Why do you think the author has this particular opinion or point of view?
- What background information about the author does the reader have that may help understand the writer's point of view? (Point of reference) Would another author have a different point of view depending on his/her background experiences?
- What pictures does the author paint for a reader?
- What evidence did the author include to support their opinions?
- What facts were missing?
- What words and phrases did the author use to present the information? (Students collect samples of the language an author uses to identify the context in which ideas are presented.)
- Why did the author write this selection? Identifying the author's purpose helps students recognize possible viewpoints, especially in persuasive writing.

Activity Two

Look at Shafiqul Alam's story. Think about how it must feel for Shafiqul documenting a disaster in his own country. How would what he says be similar or different to what non-Bangladeshi journalists say? What are some of the problems that journalists face when reporting on disasters (for example, language barriers, access to particular places...)? How do you think that foreign news reports differ from those written by journalists who live in the country concerned? Present your ideas as a thought shower.

Can you answer the questions above in relation To the article?

Shofiqul
Alam

Case study: Interview with Shafiqul Alam

"In 1991, there was a big cyclone in Bangladesh. I worked at a photographic agency. One day we collected many magazines together and spread them out on the floor. We wanted to see what pictures magazines were showing about the cyclone.

We got the impression from looking at the photos that Bangladesh had been totally destroyed. We realised that this was not true, and began to try and do something to change this. I travelled to the cyclone area and took so many photos of people surviving. They were rebuilding their houses and preparing their fields. But we found that many magazines abroad weren't so interested in getting these pictures.

There were big differences between what local papers showed in Bangladesh and what was shown abroad. I think that newspaper readers abroad are more interested in disaster stories. That's painful for me. Of course, that is part of the whole picture, but only one part. The other part that doesn't get shown so much is that people in Bangladesh are really strong in spirit and stand up to what they face. When I take photos I want to say 'look at the people and their strengths'.

As a local person I feel that I can cover stories in a way which would not be possible for outsiders. I speak the language. I know how to get to places. Most foreign photographers and journalists come for a very short time and they stay in the city where costs are very high.

My feelings about my job are probably different from someone who is not a Bangladeshi. Maybe others might see their assignment here as 'just another job'. But this is my country. I am proud of it and so I always try and find something positive.

I also feel that I have an important responsibility. A photograph can show the truth or it can hide it. My work can change the way people see Bangladesh."

Test Yourself

In planning: use different colours to underline words and phrases that:
(a) are intended to arouse the reader's emotions; (b) express a judgement on the news reported.

BANGLADESH DISASTER CLAIMS 371 LIVES WITH WORSE TO COME

20m in crisis as floods engulf a nation by Julie Simmons, Foreign Editor

Despair is etched on the face of fourteen-year-old Tahmina Khatun, drifting along on a raft near her home which has disappeared under torrents of water. She knows she now faces an uphill struggle in life.

PHOTO

A woman stands by the remains of her home in Shariatpur, destroyed by the worst floods to hit Bangladesh in over a decade.

"My companions are my ducks...and sometimes I feel threatened by snakes. But I am still alive."

Twenty million people have been affected by flooding in Bangladesh which has left two-thirds of the country under water. They face sickness and famine as whole communities are marooned, their crops destroyed and houses sunk in a disaster of epic proportions - and the worst is yet to come. Torrents pouring in from neighbouring India are adding to the catastrophe which has so far claimed 371 lives.

Sixty died of illness caused by polluted water and rotting food. Others drowned or were killed by mudslides crushing their homes. Many were poisoned by snake bites. At least 100,000 have contracted diarrhoea and thousands more are falling sick every day, say aid workers. Bangladesh, a country of twenty-five million people, appealed yesterday for urgent international aid to help it cope with the crisis.

"We will welcome any form of assistance from any government or international agencies," said Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. He warned that his country would need "huge resources".

The flooding is the worst in Bangladesh since 1988 when more than 5,000 people died. Page 7

TWO-THIRDS OF BANGLADESH ENGULFED AND FLOODWATERS STILL RISING

Syed Ahmeduzzaman in Demra

With millions of people marooned and clinging to their swamped homes, the worst flooding in Bangladesh for 10 years is reviving dreadful memories of the past.

The floods have engulfed two-thirds of this delta country for more than six weeks, and disrupted the lives and work of 25 million people.

"It already looks like the 1988 floods," said Hashem Ali Matbar, aged 57, who lives in Demra, nine miles from the capital, Dhaka. He pointed to a wide waterfront dotted with houses submerged up to their roofs.

The 1988 floods, the worst in recent memory, killed more than 5,000 people. In 1988, he said, speaking from a boat, "most of our homes had collapsed when the floodwater receded".

He feared the devastation could be worse this time, because the water had remained much longer than in 1988. "I can see a repeat of 1988 and I fear the impact could be more colossal."

The government is asking for "any form of assistance" from any government or agency. It estimates the damage so far at £140 million. Nearly 500,000 tonnes of rice has been ruined in the fields. Narananganj, a river port 12 seven miles from Demar, was submerged yesterday, witnesses said. "There is no place dry in this town," said a local businessmane, Sohrab Hossain. "The water is still rising."

Test Question

Consider what the similarities and differences are between the two reports. Is one article more positive about Bangladesh? How is this presented? What are the differences between the articles?

Write an essay which clearly explains what the purposes, viewpoint, and effects on the reader are, for the above two texts, drawing attention to any similarities/differences. You should plan your answer in table form.

	<u>Text One</u>	<u>Text Two</u>
<u>Purpose</u>		
<u>Viewpoint</u>		
<u>Effect on reader</u>		
<u>Similarities</u>		
<u>Differences</u>		