Evaluating an Author’s Intent

The 4 Aspects of Authorial Intent:

1. Points of View (The ‘what’)
   - The author’s position on an issue
   - Key Words: support, benefit, oppose, harm, against

2. Purpose (The ‘why’)
   - The author’s reason for writing
   - Examples: inform, explain or instruct, entertain, persuade

3. Intended Audience (The ‘to whom’)
   - The people that the author has in mind as his or her primary readers

4. Tone (The ‘how’)
   - The author’s attitude towards the subject or audience
   - Some words commonly used to describe tone are:
     - Angry
     - Enthusiastic
     - Nostalgic
     - Sarcastic
     - Cheerful
     - Humorous
     - Passionate
     - Shocked
     - Doubtful
     - Ironic
     - Positive
     - Sympathetic

The contents of this work were developed under grant #P116F150077 from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.