

Evaluating an Author's Intent

The 4 Aspects of Authorial Intent:

Analyzing a text requires you to think critically about why, how, and to whom the author is speaking.

Paying attention to these four aspects of authorial intent will help you to evaluate an author's 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

