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Author’s Purpose

**When reading any type of text, one must decipher what the author’s intention was when writing the piece. This conclusion, whether it be for entertainment, information, or persuasion, is called author’s purpose. In making the determination of author’s purpose, one must take into account the type of text he is reading**. For example “A Tortured Choice in Famine: Which Child Lives?,” an article written by M. Muhumed and published by the Associated Press, was written for informational purposes. **This article speaks of families in Kenya, forced to walk far distances to escape famine; sometimes having to decide to leave one or more of their children behind in order to save themselves and their remaining children. As the author states, “Then the 29-year-old mother had to make a choice that no parent should have to make…‘Finally, I decided to leave him behind to his God on the road’” (Muhumed 1).** This explains to the reader what happened, but not in story form, supporting the fact that the author’s purpose was to inform the reader, not to entertain. **Later in the article, the author speaks of Dr. John Kivelenge, a mental health officer, and quotes his knowledge about the subject: “But after a month, they will suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, which means they will have flashbacks and nightmares” (1).** The author is not trying to persuade the reader of this fact, only to inform that Dr. Kivelenge, who is educated on this subject, knows that this is a true statement that can be proven to have occurred to the people in this situation. **Looking at the information provided by the author in this article it is clear to see that the author’s purpose was to inform the reader in a way that made it easy for the reader to connect to, understand, and possibly even expland upon with others.**