



Identify Author's Viewpoint: What Does the Author Think?

Author's viewpoint is the way an author looks at a topic or the ideas being described. The author's viewpoint includes the content of the text and the language used to present the data. Thoughtful readers decipher an author's point of view, opinions, hypotheses, assumptions, and possible bias. Instruction for author's viewpoint helps students read analytically in order to identify the validity of information contained in the text. Students identify words and phrases that show an author's strong feelings for or against a person, group, or issue. Students identify selections that present various perspectives on a topic. This strategy focuses on helping students ask questions to identify stated and unstated viewpoints.

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.

Understanding the Author's Point of View

Understanding the author's point of view helps you comprehend what you are reading. There are questions that you can ask yourself to figure out why the author wrote the text. While reading a piece you should be asking yourself, "Why did the author write this, or what was the reason this piece was written?"

Authors have reasons why they write a piece. Many authors write to inform or teach someone about something. Sometimes authors write for others to enjoy his or her piece. Often authors' purpose of writing is to persuade their audience to do or not do something.