

Making Author's Purpose Pies

Author's Purpose

Michelle Mette, Patricia Turner
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Grade Level	3rd Grade	**Time Frame**	40 minutes
Subject	English/Language Arts	**Duration**	2 period

Essential Question

Why is it important to know your audience and purpose for writing?

Summary

Students begin the lesson by exploring book titles and discussing why authors write the books they do. Students will use a card sort activity and view a video clip to discover three purposes for writing. Students create individual anchor charts in the form of a paper plate Purpose PIE. The Purpose Pies help students understand three purposes for writing; persuade, inform or entertain an audience. Students then write short paragraphs using one of the writing purposes.

Snapshot

Engage

Hook students with a persuasive letter you read to them to engage them in a conversation about the writer's purpose for this letter.

Explore

Students use a card sort of 10 different book covers to categorize into groups

Explain

Students watch a video and make a Paper Plate Purpose PIE anchor chart. They revisit their card sort and label the categories.

Extend

Students write a short paragraph using one of the purposes learned.

Evaluate

Students share their paragraphs while their classmates discuss and determine the purpose of the writing.

Standards

Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts (Grade 3)

3.3.R.1: Students determine the author's stated and implied purpose (i.e., entertain, inform, persuade).

Attachments

- Author-s-Purpose-Card-Sort.pdf

Materials

- Prewritten purpose centered letter by the teacher (choose any topic for the letter that will engage your students)
- Cheap white paper plates
- Note/index cards
- Card Sort (attached) or book order forms can take the place of the attached card sort.
- Markers to write on the paper plates
- Pencils
- Author's Purpose with PIE video https://youtu.be/Sr9MU0xuW5M
- Computers or short informational books for students to use for researching their topic

5 minutes

Engage

Teacher's Note

Begin the lesson by reading a made-up letter that will draw the class in. (*No need to tell students the letter is made up.)* For example, the letter could be about a challenge offered to the class to earn the opportunity for a trip to a science museum by completing certain science activities.

After reading the letter to the class, give the class the impression that you are wondering about the purpose of this letter.(*Try to really emphasize your wondering by putting on your actor hat*). Then have the students share with their Elbow Partner what they think the purpose of the letter might be?

Ask a few pairs of students to share their ideas with the class then continue the discussion by telling students that this letter has a purpose, just like books and stories do.

15 minutes

Explore

Teacher's Note: Card Sort Preparation

- Print the attached **Card Sort** and cut the cards out. Make enough sets for groups of threes. Place each set in a baggie or envelope. You could also let the students do the cutting.
- Another option is to use book order forms, such as the ones from Scholastic, and have the students cut out the books.

The begin the Card Sort activity, divide your students into groups to sort the cards. Give each group a set of cards to sort and categorize any way they want. The students should be able to explain to the class how and why they grouped the books the way they did. Have each group select a spokesperson to share their grouping strategy and categories with the class. Record on the board or chart paper the categories students used to sort the books.

Example Categories

- fiction/nonfiction
- fun/boring
- pictures/no pictures
- colors
- about animals/about people / about things
- chapter books/picture books
- Something only kids would come up with!

20 minutes

Explain

Procedure for making the ***Paper Plate Purpose Pies*** while watching the video.

1. Before watching the video, give each student a paper plate.
2. Students divide the plate into three even sections. Some guidance will be needed here if they have never divided something into thirds before.
3. Students will use a thin marker to fill in their pie while watching the video.
4. While watching the video, stop at specific intervals to discuss each purpose.
5. Allow time for students to label each section and record ideas and examples from the discussion of the video on their *Paper Plate Purpose Pie.*
6. Students will be using their *Paper Plate Purpose Pies* throughout the rest of the lesson.
7. Next have students revisit their card sort and resort the cards into three categories: **Entertain, Inform Persuade.**
8. Students add labels for each group or place them on their paper plate pies.

Embedded video

https://youtube.com/watch?v=Sr9MU0xuW5M

40 minutes

Extend

Students will use what they learned from the video and discussion to help them write a paragraph or letter that communicates a specific purpose. Ask students to decide which of the following purposes they are going to write:

- Is it to convince or persuade someone of a point of view
- To inform or give information to the reader
- To entertain by holding the attention of the reader through enjoyment

Students write their paragraphs individually or in pairs on a large note-card or piece of paper. Their paragraphs should be concise and able to fit on a 5x7 notecard.

Allow for time to research information, especially if they have chosen to write an informative paragraph.

As student are writing they should keep their purpose secret or only known to only those within their group. Later, in the Evaluate part of this lesson, students will determine through the writing clues, what purpose the writing shows.

A Few Ideas

- Facts about animals seem to intrigue 3rd-4th graders and is a topic that is simple for students to research.
- Entertain writers can write a silly story as a group with a given list of words to make their classmates laugh.
- Persuade students will decide who their audience is and what they want to talk them into. Such as, persuading a classmate to join an after-school program or join a club, like 4-H or Girl Scouts.

20 minutes

Evaluate

Students or pairs will read their letters or paragraph out loud to the class. The class should use their *Paper Plate Purpose Pies* to help them decide the purpose of the writing. This leads to a class discussion as students share their evidence and reasoning behind their decisions. If each student individually wrote a paragraph and if your class is large, you may want to split the class into three groups and then follow the procedure above.

For a final evaluation, students can be given another set of book cards or actual books to sort into these three purposes. As students share, why they sorted their books as they did, check for mastery and understanding during this time.

- Revisit the essential question and have students complete an Exit Ticket answering the question. **Why is it important to know your audience and purpose for writing?**

Opportunity for Differentiation

Three Topics for One Purpose

- Talk about how a topic might be presented in several different ways, depending upon what the author wanted to say. Use the example of a dog, because most kids like dogs and are familiar with them. Make an anchor chart showing how we might **persuade** someone using this topic. It might be that dogs are the best pets, or maybe it's to persuade their parents to get them one.
- Then talk about how an author would write to **inform** us about dogs. Maybe he/she might write about different types of dogs, or how dogs are related to wolves.
- Then, discuss how an author would write to **entertain** us using the topic of dogs. Could they write a poem, joke, or a comic to tell the story of a talking dog? Or maybe it's a fairy tale about a dog?

Resources

- Aaker, B. (2020, April 18). Author's Purpose with PIE [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr9MU0xuW5M
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Bell ringers and exit tickets. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/125
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Card sort. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/147
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Elbow partners. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/116