

Identifying Persuasive Text (Author's Purpose/Text Type)

Expository and persuasive texts share many common characteristics. Both are informational. Both have common text structures. Both contain facts and opinions. Students often struggle to differentiate between these two text types, especially when reading a *single-perspective* persuasive text that does not explicitly request a change in beliefs or actions.

FIRST question to identify a persuasive text:

1. Are two sides or perspectives presented in the passage, for example a pro and con?

If YES, then the passage IS persuasive. If the answer is no or if you're not sure, then continue to try to answer the questions below.

NEXT questions to identify a persuasive text (when only ONE SIDE is presented):

1. Whose story is being told? Whose perspective/version/side is being presented in the passage?

- What is the position of the author/narrator?
- Does the author/narrator believe certain things about the topic/issue/world?
 - How can you tell?
 - Does the author/narrator tell us about these beliefs, or do we need to guess on the basis of clues?
- Does the author/narrator want the reader to believe something, feel a certain way, agree or disagree, or do something?
 - How can you tell?
 - Does the author/narrator tell us about these beliefs, or do we need to guess on the basis of clues?

2. Whose story is *not* being told? Is there another version/side/perspective that is *not* presented in the text?

- Why?
- Would some people disagree with the author's beliefs or statements? Who?
- What might they believe or argue instead?

3. Do *you* agree or disagree with what the author believes or states? Why?

If you can answer the above questions, then YES the passage is persuasive.

Additional Test Prep Strategy:

Scan the *other questions* on the test. Do they ask about

- author's bias/ point of view/ perspective
- persuasive techniques (glittering generalities, bandwagon, etc.)

If so, then YES the passage is persuasive.