



**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.



• **Point of View**  
*The 'what'*

the author's  
position on an  
issue

**Key Words:**

support, benefit,  
oppose, harm, against



• **Purpose**  
*The 'why'*

the author's  
reason for writing

**Examples:**

inform, explain or instruct,  
entertain, persuade



• **Intended Audience**  
*The 'to whom'*

the people that the author has in mind  
as his or her primary readers



• **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