

## CHECK for UNDERSTANDING

### Identifying the PURPOSE of a Text (adapted from Kelly Gallagher)

After identifying the purpose of various texts together in class on the Power Point (posted on the Short Story UNIT Web Page), you will work in small groups considering the **DICTION** and **CONNOTATION** of words to identify the **PURPOSE** of each of the following texts. Note ALL four texts below are about the SAME incident.

Is the purpose to:

- **INFORM** (factual, avoids emotional words)
- **ENTERTAIN** (can be funny OR use literary elements and imagery)
- **PERSUADE** (use emotional, slanted words and / or a call to action)

Text #1:

Identify the purpose from the three options listed above: \_\_\_\_\_

A suspected drunk driver crashed into a fast food restaurant south of downtown early Tuesday evening injuring him and seven other people authorities said. At about 6:00 p.m. a 25 year old man driving a black Chrysler 300 “made an unsafe turn” at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Maple Avenue. The man’s injuries were severe, and he remained hospitalized Saturday, Lopez said. The other seven people had minor injuries according to authorities.

Text #2:

Identify the purpose from the three options listed above: \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday evening innocent people’s lives were put into danger when a drunk driver’s car plowed into a fast food restaurant. This reckless driver made the dangerous and irresponsible decision to get behind the wheel of a car after consuming several alcoholic beverages. As a result, families who were simply trying to enjoy a meal at a fast food restaurant were put in danger when the drunk driver’s car crashed through the fast food restaurant’s front window. Clearly, the penalties for drunk driving are not hard enough. Therefore, we need to demand our politicians strengthen the penalties for driving while intoxicated to deter this reckless behavior in the future!

**Text #3:**

**Identify the purpose from the three options listed on page 1: \_\_\_\_\_**

On a cool crisp evening as the winter wind nipped at my cheeks, the an erratic driver lost control of the coal black car he was driving and slammed into the side of fast food restaurant. The sound of glass breaking and startled screams of restaurant customers echoed in the evening air shattering the peaceful mood that once permeated the community. Chaos and confusion erupted and when the dust settled, injured people were left strewn like overturned mannequins throughout the shattered restaurant. The sound of blaring sirens grew stronger and their flashing lights were a blur against the night sky as they rushed to the scene. As rescue workers entered the restaurant, they saw the car smashed into the soda dispenser which was spraying everyone and everything in the dining area with a continuous geyser of Mountain Dew.

**Text #4:**

**Identify the purpose from the three options listed on page 1: \_\_\_\_\_**

They say fast food is not healthy because there is too much fat, too many calories, and not enough nutrients. But that's nothing compared to the newest danger facing the fast food eater: getting run over by a sports car while peacefully eating their chicken nuggets and fries!

It's bad enough that I need to watch my *carbs*. Now I have to also watch my *cars*? Do I now have to keep my eyes peeled for Mario Andretti wannabees, long on testosterone and short on brain cells, crashing through the front of the restaurant? Make some wonder what I should order on my next visit: "I'll have the number two, please. Super-size it, and throw in a road block, a crash helmet, and body armor." I've heard of crash diets before, but this is taking the concept a bit too far.

**NOTE: you will use one of the purposes (i.e. inform, persuade, or entertain) is used TWICE since there are four sample texts.**