Reasons for Writing

All authors write for a reason. The reason an author writes something is called the author’s purpose. Here are some examples why authors write.

- To entertain, or tell a story that is either made-up or from real life
- To instruct, or explain how to do something
- To inform, or give information about someone or something
- To persuade, or try to get a reader to do something, buy something, or believe something

Identify the author’s purpose for each passage below.

More About Mummies—The ancient Egyptians preserved dead bodies with a sticky substance that turned dark over time. Travelers to Egypt thought that the dead bodies were covered in tar. The word mummy comes from mumiya (MOO-mi-ya), the Arabic word for a tar-like substance.

The author’s purpose is to _______________________.

My Mummy and Me—Just as the mummy peeked his head from my closet, my dog Tut grabbed hold of the mummy’s wraps and began to run off. The mummy began to spin around and around. His wraps quickly began to unravel!

The author’s purpose is to _______________________.

How to Make an Apple Mummy—Put an apple slice in a plastic cup. Mix ½ cup of baking soda and ½ cup of salt. Pour the mixture over the apple until the apple slice is completely covered. Store the apple slice away from light and moisture for one week.

The author’s purpose is to _______________________.

The Best Mummy Museum in the World—You have to get a ticket to the grand opening of the Mummy Museum now. With more than 20 amazing exhibits of ancient Egyptian mummies, this museum is better than any museum you have ever been to. Each ticket is only $9.99!

The author’s purpose is to _______________________.

Name: ____________________________