

**American Writers Museum**  
***American Voices***  
**Student Materials**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Activating Prior Knowledge:

What is Author's Purpose?		
Below, write the definition for each purpose. Then write an example of each purpose.		
Persuade:		
Inform:		
Entertain:		

## Exploring the *American Voices* Virtual Exhibit Instructions:

Today you will explore the *American Voices* virtual exhibit. We encourage you to take your time and read through pieces that you find interesting: poems, biographies, etc. Feel free to engage with the content provided. Throughout all of this you will also need to:

- 1. Complete the Author's Purpose Chart:** Every writer writes for a reason. As you explore the virtual exhibit and learn about many authors, begin to determine what purpose they have for writing. Search for an author for each type: persuade, inform, and entertain. Write down evidence that helped you determine which type: quotation from a text, example of what they wrote, or from reading the anecdotal notes on the author.
- 2. Personal Word Waterfall:** Great writers will brainstorm before writing. Developing a list of words or phrases that have stood out to you can be one way of brainstorming. As you explore the virtual exhibit, write down words or phrases that you like, find meaning or connection with, intrigue you, etc. By the end of your exploration, you will have a waterfall of words that you can use to write a story or poem.

### Author's Purpose Chart

As you explore the virtual exhibit and learn about many authors, begin to determine what purpose they have for writing. Search for an author for each type: persuade, inform, and entertain. Refer back to your notes about what each of those is. Write down evidence that helped you determine which type: quotation from a text, example of what they wrote, or from reading the anecdotal notes on the author.

	Author: Who uses this purpose?	Evidence: How did you know?
<b>Persuade:</b>		
<b>Inform:</b>		
<b>Entertain:</b>		

### **Personal Word Waterfall:**

As you explore the virtual exhibit, write down words or phrases that you like, find meaning or connection with, intrigue you, etc. By the end of your exploration, you will have a waterfall of words that you can use to write a story or poem.



Below are 16 of the more than 300 writers highlighted in the museum. See if you can write a note(s) about each author! You can find all the information you need in the **American Voices** virtual exhibit.

Anne Bradstreet	Phillis Wheatley	William Apess	Frederick Douglass
Maria Ruiz de Burton	Sophia Alice Callahan	James Weldon Johnson	Jack London
William Carlos Williams	Chester Himes	W.E.B Du Bois	Louisa May Alcott
Ralph Ellison	Zora Neale Hurston	Sojourner Truth	Vine Victor Deloria Jr.