

READING A Magazine Article

Reading Strategy Identifying Author's Purpose

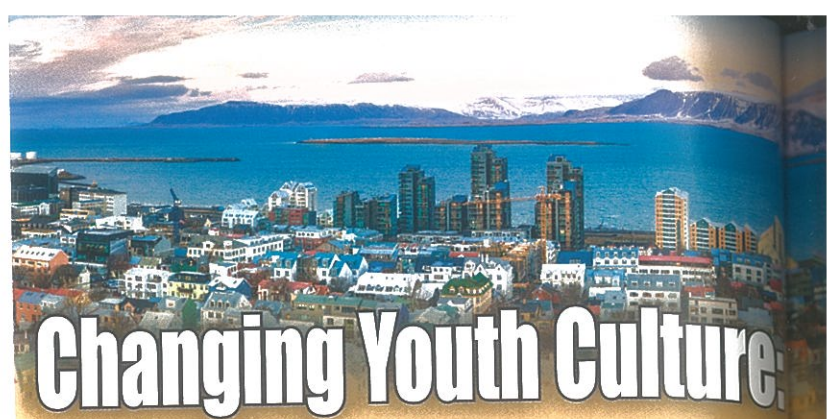
Authors write for different reasons: to describe (descriptions of places or people), to entertain (narratives), to inform (news articles, reports) and to persuade (opinion essays, for and against essays).

- 1 Read the magazine article. What is the author's purpose?
- to explain how drugs and alcohol can harm teens
 - to describe the life of teens in Iceland
 - to entertain readers
 - to inform readers about an innovative solution to social problems
- 2 Choose the correct answer.
- In 1999, Iceland ...
 - had Europe's highest rate of teen drinking
 - began giving questionnaires to young people
 - stopped allowing teens to drink
 - started asking students questions about school
 - Harvey Milkman set up a programme ...
 - for use in the US
 - aimed at homeless teens living on the streets
 - for teens interested in extra-curricular activities
 - for youth in Iceland
 - If you're aged 14 in Iceland, your curfew in July is ...
 - midnight
 - 8 pm
 - 10 o'clock at night
 - 11 pm
 - The Youth in Iceland programme requires ...
 - students to sign agreements
 - parents to participate in patrols
 - parental involvement
 - teens to do sport

TIP

When writing sentence completions, first find the paragraph that contains the necessary information. Once you have found your answer, check for any grammatical changes that you may have to make when writing your answer.

- 3 Complete the sentences using your own words.
- Sigfúsdóttir developed a questionnaire in order to ...
 - Iceland's youth curfews don't apply when young people ...
 - Some families wouldn't be able to afford youth activities if the government ...
 - Today, almost half of Iceland's teens participate ...



Changing Youth Culture

Have you ever had alcohol? Have you ever been drunk? How much time do you spend with your parents? Do you smoke? What extra-curricular activities do you participate in?

Imagine answering these kinds of questions at school. If you lived in Iceland, you'd be used to it. Since 1999, everyone aged 10 to 20 has had to answer an annual questionnaire about their habits. It's part of a programme that has made Iceland's rate of teen drinking, smoking and substance abuse among the lowest in Europe. This is a far cry from the 1990s, when it was among the highest.

A decade earlier, psychology professor Harvey Milkman had designed a successful programme for teens in the US. His approach was simple: get them off the streets and into activities like sport and music. University of Iceland researcher Inga Dóra Sigfúsdóttir heard about this and was curious: if problematic teens had done such activities earlier, would it have prevented them from participating in risky behaviour in the first place?

For an accurate understanding of Icelandic youth, Sigfúsdóttir created a questionnaire with questions like those above and surveyed teens throughout the country. The results revealed high rates of smoking and drinking. But researchers also discovered that when teenagers spend more time with their parents and participate in organised activities, they are less likely to drink or smoke.

In 1999, using these survey results, the government took action and started the Youth in Iceland programme to tackle juvenile delinquency. Amongst other things, a curfew was introduced. Without a parent, youth aged 12 and younger had to be indoors by 8 pm, and those aged 13 to 16, by 10 o'clock. This was extended by two hours during the summer. Furthermore, parents had to sign agreements pledging to follow school guidelines on rules for youth. And in Reykjavik, volunteer parent patrols went wherever teens



WORDS FROM THE TEXT

4 Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- 1 method (lines 11-18)
- 2 dangerous (lines 11-18)
- 3 exact (lines 19-25)
- 4 made longer (lines 26-33)
- 5 promising to do something (lines 26-33)

5 Choose the correct answer. Pay attention to the words in colour.

- 1 The crime rate fell when more *police* / *security cameras* began doing **patrols**.
- 2 Please use a pen to **sign** the date / your name on the petition.
- 3 We need *more* / *less* **funding** to keep the shelter open.
- 4 People **gathered** *alone* / *together* for the demonstration.
- 5 We have to **tackle** this problem, not *deal with* / *ignore* it.

EXPRESSIONS WITH FAR

Idiomatic expressions have a meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words in the expression.

This is a far cry from Iceland's situation in the 1990s.

(*a far cry from* = very different from)

6 Read the sentences below. Choose the correct meaning of the idioms in colour.

- 1 The city has **gone too far** with its curfew.
 - a not done enough
 - b done too much
- 2 The letters arrived **from far and wide**.
 - a from all over the country / world
 - b from nearby
- 3 Programmes like these are **few and far between**.
 - a rare
 - b from distant places
- 4 Your answer **isn't far off**.
 - a isn't correct
 - b is close to the truth
- 5 He's **by far** the best candidate for the job.
 - a definitely not
 - b definitely



YOUR OUTLOOK CRITICAL THINKING

How would you feel if your city or town had a curfew for teens? How would it affect you?



The Icelandic Model

35 gathered, reminding them about the curfew. All of these things continue today. Along with this "tough love" came generous government funding for sports **facilities**, organised sports and youth clubs. Families receive an annual subsidy of about €300 for each child, so everyone can participate.

40 The results have been incredible. The percentage of teens spending significant time with parents has risen from around 25% to nearly 50%, and there's been a similar increase in sport participation. Teen drinking rates have dropped from 42% to 5%, and fewer teens smoke. In addition, many people
45 believe that if Iceland hadn't invested so much in youth football, it might not have qualified for its first World Cup in 2018.

Communities around the world are testing Iceland's model, and the programme is continuing in Iceland. Teens there
50 still face issues, of course, but educators are proud of the programme's fantastic results.



LOOKING AT LANGUAGE

- 1 Look at the false friends underlined in the text. How do you say them in your language?
- 2 To *face an issue* means to confront and deal with it. How do you say this in your language? Other than an issue, which of the following can you face?
the truth | a problem | a conversation

PRONUNCIATION

- 3 Listen and repeat the words from the text. Iceland /aɪ/ | programme /æ/ | decade /eɪ/
- 4 Match the bolded letters in each word below to the correct phonetic symbol /æ/, /aɪ/ or /eɪ/. Then listen and check your answers.
tackle | guidelines | sign | rate | fantastic | high