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Understanding Point of View and Tone

Authors will often give their **point of view**. This is what the author thinks about a subject. An author expresses a point of view by choosing a particular **tone**. The author's tone is the feeling that the author creates for the readers.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Americans are gaining too much weight. They are not doing what it takes to stay healthy. There are a number of reasons for this. Meal sizes have gotten larger. And people do not exercise as much as they need to. Many people watch too much TV and eat junk food.

Bad habits start young. Many kids are spending time on computers, playing video games, or watching TV all day long. Some

parents and schools do not offer healthy lunches and snacks. Some schools do not offer enough time for exercise and play.

What can you do to stay healthy? Eat more fruits and vegetables. Drink lots of water. Find ways to play outside or inside. And avoid junk food. Try to get your whole family to get healthy. Take walks together. Turn off the TV and dance. Or play a sport with family and friends.

The author's purpose in this selection is to—

- A persuade people to become more healthy
- B express feelings about exercise
- C inform people about healthy foods
- D entertain people with a short story

Did you pick choice A? The author is trying to get you to do something. The author tells what kinds of problems Americans have. Then the author tries to *persuade* people to become healthy.

The author supports her point of view by taking—

- A a friendly tone
- B a serious tone
- C an angry tone
- D a funny tone

The author's point of view is that people need to become healthy. The author might think that a friendly tone, an angry tone, or a funny tone would not support this point of view. So the author uses a serious tone to better persuade you. The correct answer is choice B.

Point of View
and Tone

2 Who is the author's audience?

A general readers

C vegetable stand owners

B a famous chef

D very young children

3 What clues in the selection suggested your answer to question 2?



Wanted: Student Writers

Laurel Hill School is looking for writers. The school is going to start a literary magazine. This magazine will be the best around. But we need your help. Start writing your stories, poems, and essays. They could get published in our monthly magazine. Give your writings to Mrs. Van Kemp.

1 The *main* purpose of this selection is to—

A persuade readers to write stories, poems, and essays

B inform readers about a literary magazine the school is starting

C explain how to buy literary magazines from Mrs. Van Kemp

D entertain readers with a story from the literary magazine

2 To accomplish the purpose, the author uses a tone that—

A shows anger at readers who do not do any writing

B directs readers how to get their writing published

C speaks to readers' desire to get better grades

D tells readers that they need to write to be smart

Point of View
and Tone

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The Museum of Bad Art (MOBA)

Basement of Dedham Community Theatre
580 High Street in Dedham Square
Dedham, Massachusetts 02026-1845

Cost: Free

Hours: Sunday–Thursday 2–9 P.M. and Friday, Saturday, Holidays 1–10 P.M.

Description: The Museum of Bad Art has more than 400 pieces, of which only 20–40 are on display at any given time. The Museum of Bad Art started in 1995 with several pieces of art that people did not like. They were placed in the basement of the Dedham Community Theatre. You can find terrible paintings and sculptures. These pieces of bad art were found in garbage cans, resale stores, and flea markets.

- 1 The *main* purpose of this selection is to—
- A amuse B inform C persuade D describe

- 2 What clues in the selection help you answer question 1?

- 3 Who might be *most* interested in reading this selection? Explain why.

- 4 Describe the tone of this selection. Explain your answer.
