



ELA Virtual Learning

**English III / Analyzing an
Author's Stance**

April 15, 2020



Lesson: April 15, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- Recognize when the author's point of view is directly stated in a text.
- Recognize when the author's point of view is implied in a text.

CALVIN AND HOBBS

By Bill Watterson

TODAY FOR SHOW AND TELL I'VE BROUGHT A TINY MARVEL OF NATURE: A SINGLE SNOWFLAKE.

I THINK WE MIGHT ALL LEARN A LESSON FROM HOW THIS UTTERLY UNIQUE AND EXQUISITE CRYSTAL...



...TURNS INTO AN ORDINARY, BORING MOLECULE OF WATER, JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER ONE, WHEN YOU BRING IT IN THE CLASSROOM.

AND NOW, WHILE THE ANALOGY SINKS IN, I'LL BE LEAVING YOU DRIPS AND GOING OUTSIDE.

CALVIN!



Bell Ringer

Read the comic strip on the left. While Calvin doesn't explicitly say what he thinks, what do you think his stance on school is? What evidence from the comic can you use to support your answer?

[Click here to enlarge the comic](#)

Learn

In some cases, an author's point of view is obvious. In others, like the Calvin & Hobbes comic from the bellringer, an author's stance on a subject is implied rather than explicitly stated. In cases where a stance is not obvious, you can use clues from the text to make inferences about what the author is implying.

1. Read the following essay: [Why Don't We Complain?](#)
2. Use the highlighting and commenting features on Google Docs to annotate as you read.
3. Make note of the obvious argument the author is making as well as a secondary argument that may be implied.

Practice

After reading the essay, respond to the following questions. Be sure to cite examples from the text in your response.

1. What is the author's stance on complaining? What statement from the text makes this obvious?
2. What is one story the author tells in his essay to imply that Americans are reluctant to voice their complaints?

Practice Answer Key

(Answers will vary)

Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:

- The response is written in complete sentences free of major spelling and grammatical errors.
- You use examples from the text to support your response.

See an example of a proficient answer on the next slide.

Sample Proficient Answer

1.) The author believes that Americans should be less reluctant to voice their complaints. In one of the final paragraphs, Buckley Jr. writes, “when our voices are finally mute, when we have finally suppressed the natural instinct to complain, whether the vexation is trivial or grave, we shall have become automatons, incapable of feeling.” The author believes that complaining comes natural to humans and by suppressing that natural urge, we dehumanize ourselves and give up our voice.

2.) The author implies that Americans are reluctant to voice their complaints when he recalls a time that he went to see a movie. The picture was blurry and no one in the audience complained to management. The author suggests that people were reluctant to complain and then goes on to suggest possible reasons.

Questions for Reflection

1. What issue do you feel like more people should complain about?
2. What messages do you see being implied in popular media (Movies, games, advertisements, etc.)?

Additional Resources



[The Power and Danger of Good Political Cartoons](#)