Writing with Purpose

A writer can change the whole purpose of his or her text just by changing the way he chooses to present the information.

For example:

"The most important holiday for the Chinese culture is the Chinese New Year. It occurs on the first day of the first month. This calendar is based on a traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar…"

Does this excerpt sound like it was written to explain, inform, or describe? (circle one)
Which words help you infer the author's feelings about the topic? _____

What about this excerpt:

"It's an amazing celebration where the streets and neighborhoods are decorated in dancing dragons, cheerful lanterns, tons of special food, garlands and flowers, and strings of lights…"

Does this excerpt sound like it was written to explain, inform, or describe? (circle one)
Which words help you infer the author's feelings about the topic? _____

Your Task

Choose one sentence from each of the three Chinese New Year passages read yesterday in class and re-write each one for a different purpose.

An example appears below. Notice what was changed, omitted, and added to ensure the text's purpose came out differently. You may write your sentence on the back of this paper or on your own paper. Be sure to copy the original sentence and the next to it or below it, re-write your new version.

Original Text	Re-Written Text
"The food itself is spectacular, cooked to perfection with loving care in order to best symbolize the prosperity of the coming year."	Food is important to people during the celebration of the Chinese New Year. Families cook carefully because the food is symbolic to them. Food symbolizes prosperity for the coming new year.
See how descriptive this is? Which words show the author's feelings about the topic? What is one adjective you could use to describe the author's tone?	See how factual and informational the tone is now? There's nothing personal in the passage any more. The information is there- nothing more, nothing less.