Questioning the Author

Purpose:
To make students wary of the possibility of a fallible author; to allow students to examine a text not just for content, but for how the text was written.

Procedure:

1. Have students read one to two paragraphs of text.

2. Ask them to answer the following questions:
   - What is the author trying to tell you?
   - Why is the author telling you that?
   - Does the author say it clearly?
   - How could the author have said things more clearly?
   - What would you say instead?

3. Discuss the students' responses.

Created by McKeown, Beck, and Worth, 1993.