**Considering Tone & Style**

1. Tone (writer or speaker’s attitude toward the subject)
   1. Developing Tone Vocabulary

Angry

Sharp

Upset

Silly

Boring

Afraid

Happy

Hollow

Joyful

Allusive

Sweet

Vexed

Tired

Bitter

Dreamy

Restrained

Proud

Dramatic

Sad

Cold

Urgent

Joking

Poignant

Detached

Confused

Childish

Peaceful

Mocking

Objective

Vibrant

Frivolous

Audacious

Shocking

Somber

Giddy

Provocative

Sentimental

Fanciful

Complimentary

Condescending

Sympathetic

Contemptuous

Apologetic

Humorous

Horrific

Sarcastic

Nostalgic

Zealous

Irreverent

Benevolent

Seductive

Candid

Pitiful

Didactic

Satiric

Whimsical

Dramatic

Learned

Informative

Confident

Diffident

Mock-heroic

Petty

Restrained

Elegiac

Disdainful

Lugubrious

Pedantic

Indignant

Bantering

Flippant

Patronizing

Facetious

Clinical

Inflammatory

Cynical

Incisive

Scornful

Effusive

Compassionate

Impartial

Pretentious

Vibrant

Moralistic

Sardonic

Concerned

* 1. Tone Vocabulary in Categories
     1. Reverence – awe, veneration, solemn
     2. Happiness – pleased, delight, cheerful, sanguine, mirth, relish, bliss
     3. Sadness – melancholy, somber, lament, despair, despondent, regret, dismal, funereal, dark, dark, gloomy, dejection, grave, morose, sullen, bleak, remorse, forlorn, anguish, misery, barren, empty, lugubrious
     4. Ironic – biting, smirking, sneering, derisive, icy, acerbic, playful, witty, humorous, sarcastic, sardonic, flippant, cynical, mocking
     5. Love – affectionate, cherish, fondness, admiration, tenderness, Platonic, adoration, narcissism, passion, lust, rapture, ecstasy, enamored, infatuated, compassion
     6. Anger – vehement, rage, outrage, antipathy, indignant, vexation, incensed, petulant, irascible, bitter, acrimony, irate, fury, wrath, rancor, consternation, hostility, choleric, futility, bristle, exasperation
     7. Joy – exaltation, zeal, fervor, ardor, elation, jubilant, buoyancy
     8. Calm – serene, tranquil, placid
     9. Hope – expectant, anticipating
     10. Hate – vengeance, abhorrence, animosity, enmity, malice, pique, rancor, aversion, loathing, despise, scorn, contempt, disdain, jealousy, repugnance, repulsion, resentment, spite, disgust
     11. Fear – timidity, apprehension, anxiety, terror, horror, dismay, agitation, sinister, alarm, startle, uneasy, qualms, angst, trepidation, intimidation, appalled, dread
  2. Shifts in Tone – often signaled by the following
     1. Key words (i.e., but, yet, nevertheless, however, although, etc.)
     2. Punctuation (dashes, periods, colons)
     3. Stanza & paragraph divisions
     4. Changes in length of lines, stanzas, or sentence length

1. Style – when analyzing style, look at the following four areas:
   1. Diction (choice of words)
      1. Syllables – monosyllabic or polysyllabic; the higher the ratio of polysyllabic words, the more difficult the content
      2. Level of formality – colloquial (slang), informal (conversational), formal (literary), or archaic (old-fashioned)
      3. Levels of meaning – denotative or connotative; concrete or abstract
      4. Sounds of language – euphonious (pleasant sounding, like butterfly) or cacophonous (harsh sounding, like pus)
   2. Sentence structure (syntax) – consider the following aspects:
      1. Sentence length – telegraphic (shorter than 5 words), medium (around 15 or so words), long and involved (thirty or more words); fitting the subject matter; variety of sentence length; effect of lengths or combinations of length
      2. Sentence patterns
         1. Consider purpose – declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamatory
         2. Consider type – simple, compound, complex, compound-complex
         3. Loose v. periodic sentence
            1. Loose – makes complete sentence if brought to a close before the actual ending (We reached Edmonton / that morning / after a turbulent flight / and some exciting experiences.)
            2. Periodic – makes sense only when the end of the sentence is reached (That morning, after a turbulent flight and some exciting experiences, we reached Edmonton.)
         4. Balanced sentences – the phrases or clauses balance each other by virtue of their likeness or structure, meaning, and / or length
         5. Natural v. Inverted v. Split order of sentence
            1. Natural – subject comes before the predicate
            2. Inverted – predicate comes before the subject (often used to create an emphatic or rhythmic effect)
            3. Split – divides the predicate by inserting the subject in the middle
         6. Juxtaposition - a poetic and rhetorical device in which normally unassociated ideas, words, or phrases are placed next to each other to create an effect of surprise and wit
   3. Treatment of subject matter (consider tone)
   4. Figurative language (symbol, metaphor, etc.)
2. Words that may be useful in describing Language

Jargon

Pedantic

Scholarly

Insipid

Precise

Esoteric

Connotative

Plain

Literal

Colloquial

Artificial

Detached

Emotional

Pedantic

Euphemistic

Pretentious

Sensuous

Exact

Symbolic

Figurative

Bombastic

Abstruse

Grotesque

Concrete

Poetic

Moralistic

Slang

Idiomatic

Concrete

Cultured

Picturesque

Homespun

Provincial

Trite

Obscure