

AP Language & Composition

Tone Words

Positive

lighthearted	confident	amused	complimentary	amiable
relaxed	soothing	jubilant	encouraging	reverent
hopeful	cheery	elated	passionate	whimsical
romantic	calm	enthusiastic	elevated	exuberant
optimistic	sympathetic	proud	fanciful	appreciative
consoling	ecstatic	jovial	loving	compassionate
friendly	pleasant	brave	joyful	energetic

Negative

angry	wrathful	threatening	agitated	obnoxious
insulting	choleric	disgusted	bitter	accusing
arrogant	quarrelsome	surly	outraged	irritated
condemnatory	belligerent	disgruntled	furios	indignant
inflammatory	aggravated	brash	testy	

Humor/Irony/Sarcasm

scornful	bantering	disdainful	irreverent	condescending
pompous	mocking	ridiculing	wry	sarcastic
taunting	cynical	insolent	patronizing	whimsical
malicious	droll	critical	ironic	facetious
flippant	mock-heroic	teasing	quizzical	comical
satiric	amused	sardonic	contemptuous	caustic
ribald	irreverent			

Sorrow/Fear/Worry

somber	mournful	concerned	morose	hopeless
remorseful	poignant	melancholy	solemn	fearful
pessimistic	grave	staid	ominous	sad
serious	despairing	sober	solemn	resigned
horror	disturbed	apprehensive	gloomy	foreboding
mournful	regretful			

Neutral

formal	objective	questioning	learned	authoritative
disbelieving	sentimental	pretentious	apathetic	conventional
judgmental	reflective	ceremonial	candid	instructive
factual	incredulous	urgent	fervent	histrionic
callous	forthright	lyrical	sincere	restrained
clinical	matter-of-fact	didactic	shocked	nostalgic
earnest	resigned	contemplative	haughty	objective
detached	admonitory	informative	baffled	reminiscent
patriotic	meditative	intimate	obsequious	