

## Tone Notes:

**Tone**= the **author's attitude** toward the subject/audience, which results in an emotional effect (mood). The tone of a mystery story may be suspenseful or frightening; a letter to the editor could be angry or congratulatory. Tone in writing is **formed by sentence structure and diction, use of figurative language, and narrative perspective**. (Example: Your parents have an ANGRY tone which cause you to have a GUILTY mood.)

**Mood** = the **emotional effect** a piece of writing conveys.

**Voice** = speaker/ **writer's unique way of using language**. Look at writer's language choices and diction. It is the writer's personality and distinct way of "talking" that allows a reader to "hear" a human personality in a piece of writing.

The voice a writer uses in an essay will depend on its type and its audience. Tone is closely related to voice in this way.

Personal essay = voice close to own, informal speaking.

Formal Report = objective (not judging), authoritative voice.

**Sentences** – use different sentence types throughout your essay to convey your tone (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) .

- **Shorter sentences** create more tension and impact the reader with more purposeful points that you want to stand out.
- **Longer sentences** help your paper and thoughts flow more smoothly and carry readers through a scene more effectively.

