

Writing Assignment #2: Tone Reversal

Now that you have analyzed mentor texts in class for all the elements that make up tone, you are going to try your hand at using specific connotations to convey tone.

FIRST STEP: FREE WRITE

Select either love, money, or pride. FREE WRITE for at least 10 minutes, getting out all of your thoughts about the topic. Then, go back through your writing and circle or highlight words/phrases that sound negative or positive (use different colors).

SECOND STEP: DEVELOP YOUR WRITING

Decide if you sounded more negative or positive. Now, write a paragraph about your topic focusing only on that aspect. Try to “show” the reader with your words rather than tell the reader what you think about your topic. You may choose to write about your concept in general, a particular experience you have had involving your concept, or your thoughts about a specific aspect of your concept. Aim for a minimum of 150 words.

Here’s mine...I decided to write about “pride.”

As if swathed in a heavy, matted cloak, I watch it slowly swallow the young man prancing down the hall, his face preaching a message that no one wants to hear. The others avert his gaze with disgust, despising the judgment that he suffocates them with. Every strut is nothing more than a reminder that he thinks himself better, an insidious insult to the rest of the world. A proud man. A man that smirks at the weakness of others. A man who lifts his chin to look down at me. But for a moment, I see his eye waver, seeking something—getting nothing but suffering silence. Underneath the façade, a seed of doubt takes root, and like Grendel, it threatens. So he wraps his cloak tighter, thinking he is safe. I wonder what happens when he realizes he isn’t?

~~ Mrs B

1. What tone am I aiming for? Circle the clues.
2. What is my goal in writing the piece above? What am I trying to say about pride?

THIRD STEP: REVISE YOUR WRITING

All writing is a process – remember that you are rarely ever “done.” Return to your paragraph and circle words that you intentionally used to show your positive or negative connotation (whichever one you were focusing on). Put squares around the words that you think could be stronger and write a replacement for them above the square. Use a thesaurus to help you think of words to use.

- My paragraph is at 140 words. What could I add to clarify my meaning?

FOURTH STEP: “FLIP” your view

If you wrote positive, go negative. If you wrote a negative view, go positive. Focus on the diction you used and change those words to the words that have the opposite connotation. Of course, you may have to change other words, as well, but your content should basically be the same. Don’t change topics at this point! Now, repeat step three with this new paragraph. Aim for a minimum of 150 words.

FIFTH STEP: Type your writing and format the document according to MLA page formatting guidelines. Use the MLA guide I have linked on the class website under “**Research & Formatting: MLA.**”

SIXTH STEP: Submit to Turnitin.com

DUE DATE: Tuesday, September 7th (that means it is printed out and ready to go)