



# AP TONEWORDS

\*\*\*Note that these words are adjectives!!!!\*\*\*

- ❖ When trying to decide what the tone is, start by asking yourself, is his attitude positive or negative. Once you've decided which, scan through the list of tone words, focusing on the ones that reflect the generic positive/negative attitude.
- ❖ Many of the following words mean almost the same thing, so when choosing an appropriate tone word, consider the connotations of the word, and the nuances of the definitions.

ACCUSATORY --charging of wrongdoing

APATHETIC -- indifferent due to lack of energy or concern

AWESTRUCK --full of solemn wonder

BITTER- exhibiting strong animosity as a result of pain or grief

CYNICAL --questions the basic sincerity of people

CONDESCENSION- a feeling of superiority

CALLOUS --unfeeling, insensitive to feelings

CONTEMPLATIVE- studying, thinking reflecting on an issue

CRITICAL- finding faults

CHOLERIC-hot tempered, easily angered

CONTEMPTUOUS -- showing or expressing scorn or disdain

CAUSTIC-- intense use of sarcasm, stinging, biting

CONVENTIONAL -- lacking spontaneity, originality or individuality

DISDAINFUL-scornful

DIDACTIC - author attempts to educate or instruct the reader

DERISIVE --ridiculing, mocking

EARNEST --intense and sincere state of mind

ERUDITE --learned, polished, scholarly

FANCIFUL --using the imagination

FORTHGHT --directly frank without hesitation

GLOOMY --darkness, sadness, rejection

HAUGHTY- proud and vain to point of arrogance

INDIGNANT --marked by anger

INTIMATE -- very familiar

JUDGMENTAL -- authoritative and often critical opinion

JOVIAL- happy

LYRICAL --full of images, song-like, reflecting inner feelings/emotions

MATTER-OF-FACT- accepting; not fanciful or emotional, to the point

MOCKING -- treating with contempt or ridicule

MOROSE- gloomy, sullen, surly, despondent

MALICIOUS- purposely hurtful

OBJECTIVE- unbiased view

OPTIMISTIC- hopeful; cheerful

OBSEQUIOUS -- polite, obedient in hopes of gain or favor

PATRONIZING- air of condescension

PESSIMISTIC-seeing the worst side of things

QUIZZICAL- odd, eccentric, amusing

RIBALD- offensive in speech, gesture

REVERENT- treating subject with honor, respect

RIDICULING- slightly contemptuous banter

REFLECTIVE -- given to, marked by, or concerned with meditation or deliberation

SARCASTIC- sneering, caustic

SARDONIC- scornfully and bitterly sarcastic

SINCERE- genuine; without deceit

SOLEMN- deeply earnest; grave or pretense

SANGUINEOUS- optimistic, confident

WHIMSICAL- odd, fanciful