



Tone Mixer

Mission: The same event can sound wonderful or awful depending on word choice. Use the Tone Mixer to rewrite a news paragraph for three different tones, and watch the tone meter respond.

Big question: How does an author's word choice create tone?

★ Warm-up: Name the tone

What is the tone of each sentence?

"The game was a thrilling victory!" ✓ **Enthusiastic.**

"The game ended 3-2." ✓ **Neutral.**

Key vocabulary

Tone	The author's attitude toward a subject.
Objective	Neutral; not showing feelings.
Critical	Showing disapproval.
Enthusiastic	Showing excitement.

1 Box 1

Mission 1: positive

In the simulator: Mix the paragraph to sound fully POSITIVE.

Which word choice did the most to make it positive?

☐ "raved" ☐ "arrived" ☐ "Monday"

✓ **"raved"**

2 Box 2

Mission 2: negative

In the simulator: Mix it to sound fully NEGATIVE (use Next mission).

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Mission 3: neutral

In the simulator: Mix it to sound NEUTRAL (objective).

When would a writer want a neutral tone?

☐ In a news report that just gives facts ☐ In a birthday card ☐ In an angry complaint

✓ **In a news report that just gives facts**

4 Box 4

Write with tone

Write 2-3 sentences about a rainy day with a clearly POSITIVE tone. Then name two words that create the tone.

Look for: Uses positive word choice; at least 20 words

5 Box 5

Legend: mixed tone 🏆 Legend only

Write a sentence with a MIXED tone (both positive and negative) about a school field trip. Explain which words create each feeling.

Look for: Shows a contrast; at least 20 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How does an author's word choice create tone?

Look for: Tone is the author's attitude, created mostly through word choice. Positive words ("golden," "raved") create an enthusiastic tone; negative words ("soggy," "grumbled") create a critical tone; neutral words ("warm," "talked") create an objective tone.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
🗺 Explorer	19D-E
🔍 Investigator	NMV-I
🏆 Legend	NOR-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "Synonyms can always be swapped." Connotation changes the meaning and tone.
- "Tone and mood are the same." Tone is the author's attitude; mood is how the reader feels.
- "Figurative language is only in poems." It appears in all kinds of writing, even news.