

Writing Tones

anguished - upset
animated - excited
ambivalent - whatever
apathetic - unresponsive
accusatory - blaming
amused - funny
absurd - ridiculous
aggressive - attacking
acerbic - severe
abstruse - hidden
assertive - straightforward
aggrieved - wronged
arrogant - cocky
awestruck - disbelieving
admiring - like
ardent - passionate
befuddled - confused
benevolent - kind
bitter - harsh
belligerent - angry
compliant - agreeing
casual - relaxed
cautionary - warning
condescending - mocking
contemplative - deciding
callous - rough
cynical - doubting
colloquial - area language
confused - confused
critical - attacking
compassionate - kind
complaining - unhappy
chatty - wordy
complex - difficult
contemptuous - haughty
caustic - burning
cruel - mean
celebratory - party

candid - sincere
conciliatory - flexible
detached - removed
depressed - sad
disapproval - against
distressed - worried
docile - tame
evasive - hiding
derisive - mocking
dignified - stately
disparaging - negative
distressed - worried
disheartened - hopeless
diplomatic - fair
defiant - resistant
dispassionate - calm
demeaning - degrading
empathetic - sympathetic
egotistical - focused on self
earnest - sincere
farcical - nonsense
forceful - tough
frank - sincere
fawning - overly admiring
flippant - without care
fault finding - blaming
frivolous - silly
fuming - mad
ghoulish - scary
grim - very sad
gullible - easily fooled
hard-hearted - no sympathy
hypercritical - criticizing
humble - modest
incensed - very angry
imploring - begging
indignant - strong dislike
intimate - personal
inane - without reason

irreverent - without respect
impassioned - pleading
incredulous - skeptical
indifferent - don't care
impartial - fair
ironic - irony
jaded - been there, done that
laudatory - praising
malicious - mean spirited
mocking - attack
modest - humble
macabre - horrifying
mourning - remembrance
mysterious - vague
mournful - sad
naive - lack experience
narcissistic - focused on self
nostalgic - fond remembrance
objective - fair, balanced
outraged - very mad
obsequious - obedient
optimistic - hopeful
placating - fake agreeing
pompous - self important
pragmatic - sensible
pretentious - fake importance
pathetic - hopelessly sad
pessimistic - negative
pensive - thinking
patronizing - fake agreeing
philosophical - thoughtful
persuasive - good argument
reflective - think through
resentful - jealous
reverent - with respect
resigned - without hope
regretful - sorry
righteous - morally correct
reticent - holding back

restrained - careful
sarcastic - mocking
sentimental - looking back
satirical - mock
sympathetic - friendly
skeptical - doubtful
scornful - rejecting
scathing - attacking
sensationalism - exaggerated
submissive - giving in
subjective - opinion
sulking - sad
solemn - quiet respect
sorrowful - apologetic
tragic - awful sad
unassuming - humble
unbiased - fair
virtuous - without sin
vindictive - revenge
witty - funny
world-weary - jaded
wretched - poor

Language Styles

formal - precise, dignified, speech-like
informal - like conversation
ornate - decorated, flowery
subdued - held back, soft
archaic - old style, not used now
familiar - like they know you
broad - general without specifics
abstract - not tied to concrete examples
concrete - tied to concrete examples
figurative - use of metaphors, similes, and imagery
rhetorical - analysis of persuasion
technical - specialized language for particular area, scientific