

Lesson Skill: Developing an essay: word choice

Strand Writing

SOL 9.6, 9.7
10.6,10.7
11.6,11.7
12.6,12.7

Materials

- Copies of the attached Diction: Word Choice Controls Tone worksheet

Lesson

For improvement in the area of written expression, have students work to improve their tone vocabulary. This should be considered an on-going activity.

1. Review the definition of *diction* as “word choice,” and give examples of diction controlling tone. (Review the definition of *tone*, if necessary, and give examples.) Help students examine the idea that words can have negative, positive, or neutral effects on a reader. Give examples.
2. Distribute copies of the attached Diction: Word Choice Controls Tone worksheet, and have students add words to it as they encounter them.
3. Emphasize that every time a student receives a scored paper noting a weakness in written expression, he/she should examine the tone words to see if better words can be used. Have students concentrate on tone words from their worksheet to strengthen their writing in the written expression area. Have them highlight tone words when they write.

Diction: Word Choice Controls Tone

Expand this list by adding additional synonyms.

dislike resent hate disapprove of	funny hilarious silly humorous
sad depressed melancholy blue	happy joyous ecstatic glad
upset annoyed vexed mad	laugh chuckle giggle roar
old mature experienced elderly	fat obese heavy set overweight
sad withdrawn silent unhappy	smart clever astute skillful