

**Class Recap: Voice and Tone**

We learned that when you write a story, you're not just telling what happened; you're controlling how it sounds. This Narrative Voice gives your writing its unique personality and attitude.

- **Voice:** The author's or narrator's unique style, rhythm, and personality. (This is WHO is telling the story and their personality).
- **Tone:** The attitude or feeling the writer conveys about the subject. (This is HOW the story is told—e.g., sarcastic, joyful, critical, fearful).
- **Control Panel:** Your writing voice is built by controlling two main tools:
  - **Diction:** Your specific word choices (e.g., using "apprehended" instead of "caught").
  - **Syntax:** The structure and length of your sentences.

**Review: Shifting Voice** 🧡💜

We saw that the same basic event can sound completely different just by changing your diction and syntax:

| Tone Example           | Diction (Words Used)                                                          | Syntax (Sentence Structure)          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Formal/Clinical</b> | Sophisticated, technical words ( <i>subject, refrigeration unit, surge</i> ). | Long, complex, flowing sentences.    |
| <b>Bored/Sarcastic</b> | Slang, casual words ( <i>thing, surprise, gross leftovers</i> ).              | Short, choppy, fragmented sentences. |

**Key Takeaways**

To make your narrative voice sound powerful and specific, you must write with intention.

1. **Don't Just Summarize:** Every word must contribute to the feeling you want to create. If you want the reader to feel anxious, use words related to fear (flinch, smothering, tight) and short, gasping sentences.
2. **Syntax Controls Pacing:** Long sentences slow the reader down and are good for formality or suspense. Short sentences speed the reader up and are great for action or panic.
3. **The Opening Line is Everything:** Your very first sentence (like in Writing Exercise 2) should immediately signal the narrator's state of mind and the story's overall tone.

**Homework:** Tone Mapping Exercise

Objective: To practice controlling diction and syntax to achieve a specific, predetermined tone.

**Part 1: Source Text (Neutral):** Read the following neutral description of a small, everyday action:

The old, white pickup truck drove slowly up the gravel road. It stopped exactly where the mailbox stood beside the large oak tree. The driver turned the engine off and sat still for a moment, looking out at the empty field.

**Part 2: Tone Transformation:** Rewrite the Source Text twice. You must choose specific words (diction) and vary the sentence length (syntax) to match the required tone.

**Transformation A: Tone of Suspense & Foreboding (Implied Danger)**

- **Focus:** Use longer, suspenseful sentences that build dread. Use words that suggest darkness, hidden danger, or waiting.

**Transformation B: Tone of Nostalgia & Warmth (Fond Memory)**

- **Focus:** Use soft, flowing syntax. Use words that suggest light, warmth, comfort, and the feeling of home.



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