

ATTITUDE MEGA-MAP



tone wheel for selective
& scholarship reading

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Tone Wheel for Selective & Scholarship Reading

PAGE 1 – The Tone Wheel in 3 Rings

Kids see:

sarcastic • resigned • cynical • nostalgic • optimistic • critical

...and spin the wheel randomly.

This Mega-Map turns tone into something concrete:

Start with: Positive / Negative / Mixed / Neutral

Then: Soft / Strong

Then: pick from a category on the 'tone wheel'.

PAGE 1 – The Tone Wheel in 3 Rings

PAGE 2 – Quick 3-Step Algorithm (Applied to the Wheel)

You can turn this into a circular graphic:

RING 1 – Valence (Big Picture)

- Positive
- Negative
- Mixed/Complex
- Neutral

RING 2 – Energy (How Strong?)

- Calm / Gentle
- Clear / Firm
- Strong / Intense

RING 3 – Specific Attitude Labels

Positive:

Calm: admiring, respectful, appreciative, fond

Firm: hopeful, encouraging, supportive

Intense: enthusiastic, passionate

Negative:

Calm: disappointed, concerned, sceptical

Firm: critical, disapproving, pessimistic

Intense: angry, outraged, sarcastic, mocking, disgusted, cynical

Mixed / Complex:

Calm: reflective, thoughtful

Firm: nostalgic, bittersweet, conflicted

Intense: uneasy, anxious, resentful, resigned

Neutral / Other:

calm/informative: objective, factual, explanatory

curious: inquiring, speculative

PAGE 2 – Quick 3-Step Algorithm (Applied to the Wheel)

PAGE 3 – POSITIVE TONES (by category)

Before you look at answer options:

1. Positive or negative (or mixed or neutral)?

Does the writer mostly like, dislike, or just describe?

2. Soft, firm, or intense?

Gentle? Clear but not extreme? Or strong/emotional?

3. Which cluster on the wheel fits best?

Then match to the closest answer choice.

PAGE 3 – POSITIVE TONES (by category)

The Tone Wheel Guide

1. Warm / Appreciative / Admiring (Calm Positive)

Core labels:

admiring, appreciative, respectful, affectionate, fond

Meaning:

Speaks highly of someone/thing; notices good qualities.

Clue words & phrases:

- 'remarkable', 'impressive', 'generous', 'brave', 'kind'
- 'I have great respect for...'
- 'It is easy to admire the way...'

Example lines:

"I've always admired her quiet determination to help every student, not just the loud ones."

"Their patience and courage in the face of uncertainty is nothing short of remarkable."

2. Hopeful / Encouraging / Supportive (Firm Positive)

Core labels:

hopeful, optimistic, encouraging, supportive

Meaning:

Believes things can improve; wants the reader to feel able.

Clue words:

- 'we can', 'there is still time', 'possible', 'future', 'opportunities'
- 'If we work together...'
- 'It may be difficult now, but...'

Example lines:

"Although the task is challenging, we have everything we need to succeed if we prepare carefully."

"These small changes can slowly transform our school into a kinder place."

3. Enthusiastic / Passionate (Intense Positive)

Core labels:

enthusiastic, passionate, excited, eager

PAGE 4 – NEGATIVE TONES (by category)

Meaning:

Very positive and energetic; trying to spread excitement.

Clue words:

- 'amazing', 'incredible', 'thrilled', 'can't wait'
- strong exclamation used sensibly

Example lines:

"The new science lab is an incredible space where ideas practically buzz in the air."

"I'm genuinely excited to see what our students will create with these tools."

PAGE 4 – NEGATIVE TONES (by category)

The Tone Wheel Guide

4. Disappointed / Regretful (Calm Negative)

Core labels:

disappointed, regretful, let down

Meaning:

Expected better and is gently upset.

Clue words:

- 'It's a shame...', 'Unfortunately...', 'I had hoped...'
- 'could have been', 'fell short'

Example lines:

"It's a shame that such a promising idea was forgotten after the first meeting."

"I had hoped the program would reach every student, not just those who already excel."

5. Concerned / Worried / Anxious (Calm → Firm Negative)

Core labels:

concerned, worried, uneasy, anxious

Meaning:

Nervous something bad might happen; warning us.

Clue words:

- 'I worry that...', 'I fear...', 'could lead to...'
- 'It troubles me that...', 'raises serious questions'

Example lines:

"I worry that constant testing may slowly drain the joy from learning."

"It troubles me that some students feel invisible in their own classrooms."

6. Sceptical / Doubtful (Calm Negative)

Core labels:

sceptical, doubtful, unconvinced

Meaning:

Does not fully believe a claim; questions it.

The Tone Wheel Guide

Clue words:

- 'claims to... yet...', 'seems', 'supposedly'
- 'It is unclear whether...', 'There is little evidence that...'

Example lines:

"The app claims to 'revolutionise' study, but offers little proof beyond flashy slogans."

"It seems impressive at first, yet many details remain unexplained."

7. Critical / Disapproving (Firm Negative)

Core labels:

critical, disapproving, condemning

Meaning:

Clearly points out problems, faults, or unfairness.

Clue words:

- 'fails to', 'ignores', 'unfair', 'harmful'
- 'This approach overlooks...', 'This policy punishes...'

Example lines:

"The decision to cut library funding ignores the needs of students who rely on a quiet place to study."

"This rule unfairly punishes those who can't afford extra help."

8. Angry / Outraged / Indignant (Intense Negative)

Core labels:

angry, outraged, indignant

Meaning:

Strong anger about something unjust or harmful.

Clue words:

- 'appalling', 'unacceptable', 'outrageous', 'infuriating'
- repeated strong negatives; no attempt to soften

Example lines:

"It is outrageous that children are expected to carry this burden alone."

"This level of neglect is simply unacceptable in any school."

PAGE 5 – MIXED / COMPLEX TONES

9. Sarcastic / Mocking / Cynical (Intense Negative)

Core labels:

sarcastic, mocking, cynical

Meaning:

Sarcastic: says the opposite of what they mean to ridicule.

Cynical: believes people are selfish/insincere; distrusts motives.

Sarcastic clue words:

- 'What a brilliant idea...' (when it's clearly not)
- 'Of course, because nothing ever goes wrong with last-minute changes.'

Cynical clue words:

- 'so-called', 'pretend to', 'only care about'
- 'as if they really believed...', 'not because they care, but because...'

Example lines:

"What a perfect solution: add more forms so we have less time to actually help students." (sarcastic)

"The company doesn't sponsor events out of kindness; it simply wants to plaster its logo everywhere." (cynical)

PAGE 5 – MIXED / COMPLEX TONES

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10. Nostalgic / Bittersweet (Positive + Sad)

Core labels:

nostalgic, bittersweet

Meaning:

Warm feelings about the past, mixed with sadness that it's gone.

Clue words:

- 'I remember...', 'Back then...', 'in those days...'
- Past-tense scenes described lovingly; present seems harsher.

Example lines:

"I still remember the smell of dust and sunlight in our old library, and the way time seemed to slow there."

"Those afternoons are gone now, replaced by schedules and screens."

11. Reflective / Thoughtful / Contemplative (Calm Mixed)

Core labels:

reflective, thoughtful, contemplative

Meaning:

Quietly thinking; weighing ideas; not pushing hard for/against.

Clue words:

- questions, 'perhaps', 'on the one hand / on the other'
- 'I've begun to wonder...', 'It made me think about...'

Example lines:

"Walking home that day, I began to wonder what 'success' really means."

"The experience made me think differently about what we call 'easy' and 'hard'."

12. Conflicted / Torn / Ambivalent (Mixed)

Core labels:

conflicted, ambivalent, torn

Meaning:

Sees both sides; can't fully choose.

The Tone Wheel Guide

Clue words:

- 'part of me... while another part...', 'I'm not sure whether...'
- 'I love... yet I also worry that...'

Example lines:

"Part of me wanted to stay and keep helping, while another part longed for a fresh start."

"I'm not sure whether the change is exciting or frightening – maybe both."

13. Resigned / Fatalistic (Calm but Negative)

Core labels:

resigned, fatalistic

Meaning:

Has given up on changing things; accepts something unhappy.

Clue words:

- 'I suppose that's just how...', 'There's nothing we can do but...'
- 'It seems this is the way it will always be.'

Example lines:

"I used to complain, but now I simply line up with everyone else and wait."

"Perhaps this is just the price we pay for convenience."

14. Uneasy / Tense (Soft but Uncomfortable)

Core labels:

uneasy, tense, unsettled

Meaning:

Something feels wrong; not full fear, but discomfort.

Clue words:

- 'strange', 'unsettling', 'something felt off'
- descriptions of tightness, silence, stiffness

Example lines:

"The sudden silence in the hallway was so complete it felt wrong, as if the building were holding its breath."

"I laughed with everyone else, but the joke sat uncomfortably in my stomach."

PAGE 6 – NEUTRAL / CURIOUS

PAGE 6 – NEUTRAL / CURIOUS

15. Neutral / Objective / Factual

Core labels:

neutral, objective, factual, informative

Meaning:

Just gives information; little/no emotion.

Clue words:

- statistics, dates, explanations; very few emotional adjectives
- balanced pros and cons without strong words

Example lines:

"The school was built in 1985 and renovated in 2012."

"Fifty-eight percent of students travel to school by bus."

16. Curious / Inquisitive / Speculative

Core labels:

curious, inquisitive, speculative

Meaning:

Interested; asking questions; exploring possibilities.

Clue words:

- 'perhaps', 'might', 'could it be that...?', 'what if...?'
- frequent questions used genuinely, not sarcastically

Example lines:

"What if homework were designed not as extra work, but as a chance to explore what truly interests us?"

"Perhaps the real issue is not the amount of time we have, but how we choose to use it."

PAGE 7 – How to Practise Using the Tone Wheel

The Tone Wheel Guide

Step A – Label from Scratch (No Options)

Read a short paragraph.

Ask your child to:

- Write: 'The writer feels [positive/negative/mixed/neutral] about...'
- Choose one label from the wheel (e.g. concerned, sarcastic, nostalgic).
- Underline 3 words or phrases that prove it.

Step B – Add Multiple-Choice Options (Selective Style)

Give a short passage + 4 options, e.g.:

- enthusiastic
- critical
- nostalgic
- objective

Ask:

- Cross out any that are the wrong valence.
- From what's left, which fits the energy level of the passage?
- Which option matches the evidence words in the text?

Micro Drill (You Can Add More Like This)

Label each sentence with the closest tone from the wheel:

1. "I had hoped the new system would help us, but it has only added confusion."
2. "Every corner of the new library seems to whisper, 'Come and read here.'"
3. "Perhaps we are measuring the wrong things when we call a student 'successful'."
4. "Of course, the best way to reduce stress is clearly to give us more tests."

Expected labels:

1. Disappointed / Critical
2. Enthusiastic / Appreciative
3. Reflective / Thoughtful
4. Sarcastic