

The author's views and tone



*You there!
Get out from under that desk!*

- ◆ **Who is the author and what do they say?** The task of opinion writers is to persuade us to adopt their views and values. Be clear about the author's message, their reasons and purpose for writing.
- ◆ **How do they say it?** The tone, "voice" and style are important components of the author's message. They are clues to the author's personality and have a strong impact on how the message is conveyed and how they position us to support their views.

"Oh, I see, of course!" Sometimes authors write as they would talk and seek to establish a close and friendly relationship with readers. Other times they keep a respectful distance and "speak" with an air of authority, impressing us with their knowledge and grasp of the issue. Many authors seek to sweep us along with their energy and passion, reassuring us that their solution is the best course of action. Other times, authors adopt a harsh or self-righteous tone, because they feel extremely angry or resentful about instances of wrongdoing.

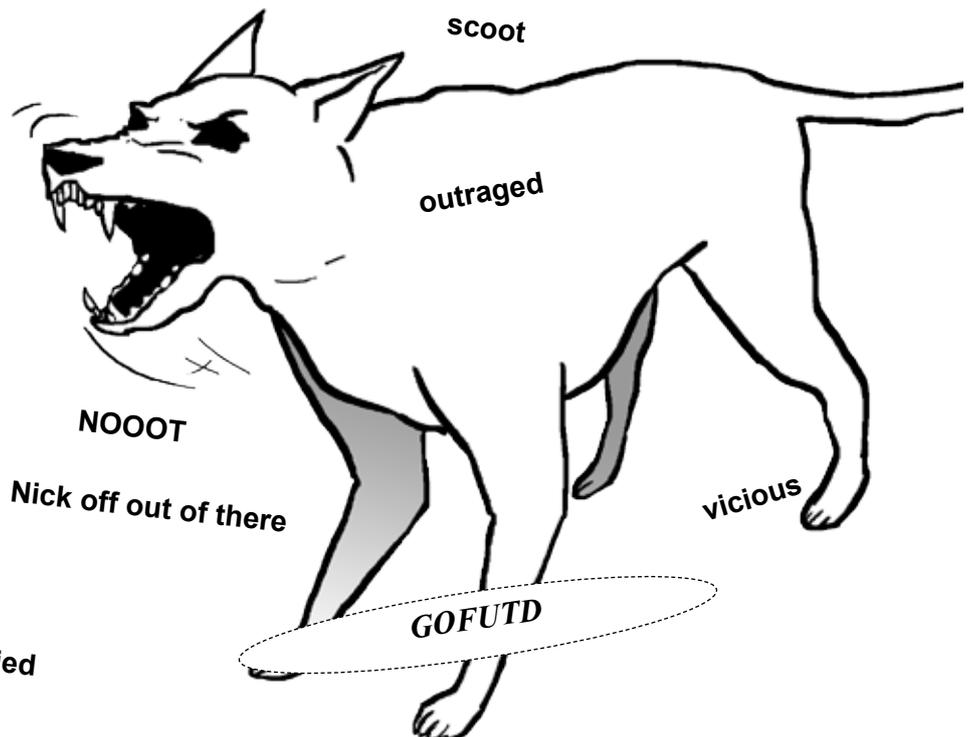
An impossible walk!

I'm too scared to take my dog for a walk down the beach after the last incident. A vicious dog attacked my little labrador and I had to take it to the vet for an injection. What if that were a child? I read there were 35 attacks in the Shire of Smiggledon last year. And that's just the reported attacks!

Jon, Tue Nov 18 2014

indignant

horrified





Exercise 1

Discussion of Theresa Smart, a 15-year-old solo sailor who attempted to sail around the world.

JUNIE: What a foolish trip! I mean, how irresponsible is that mother! If Theresa doesn't get eaten by sharks she's bound to get swallowed by the waves. It's the most misguided adventure you could possibly undertake. (1)

GARY: Yeah, but that's how kids learn. By taking risks. Look at the rest of us. Is that such a great way to bring up kids? Just leave them in the room playing computer games. Most of them are becoming time-wasting zombies. Theresa has a go, takes risks and everyone starts criticising her. (2)

JUNIE: But can't you see? The moment something goes wrong they cry wolf. Everyone has to come to their help — boats, officers and helicopters. Who's paying? What if the parents can't afford it? They didn't give that much thought before she went, did they? (3)

GARY: If you had to think of everything, you'd end up doing nothing. A girl has a go and then everyone is jumping down her throat. Get off her back. (4)

JUNIE: They should find something else that tests their limits without being such an attention-seeking nuisance. (5)

How would you describe the speaker's tone?

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Modality

Sometimes authors **may** wish to express the fact that the Government **should** spend more money on public transport or that it **can** do more to ease traffic congestion. This is called “**modality**”. Modal verbs allow us to vary the meaning of a verb and change the tone of the sentence.

Modal verbs such as **can, could, may, might** and **shall** express caution and the fact that something may be possible. They might indicate a wise, careful or sensible tone. For example “the government could take this option”. Modal verbs such as **must** and **should** indicate necessity.

They signal a more forthright, urgent, confident and bolder tone: “The government **must** protect the Great Barrier Reef from sludge deposits.”

Rhetorical questions

Often such questions signal a shocked, dismayed or reflective tone.

“*Why would anyone throw away their reputation like that?*”

The tone of rhetorical questions may be: provocative, cynical challenging, shocked, incredulous, dismayed, alarmed, questioning or reflective.

Commands

Watch out for commands or orders. Commands consist of the infinitive form of the verb, such as “(to) watch” or “(to) eat”. If someone is telling you to do something, they are probably being: **blunt, abrupt, urgent, authoritative, forceful or moralistic**.

Exclamations

Exclamations offer a clue to the writer’s attitude and emotions. They often begin with “what” or “how”. “What a sad day for the horses!”



Exercise 2

1. Butt out with bans

The idea of banning smoking outdoors is laughable. We constantly breathe in a cocktail of car, truck and factory pollution.

What difference will it make banning cigarette smoke outdoors while trucks and cars whiz past pouring their filth into the environment?

Honestly, Mr Premier, it’s time to tell these do-gooders where to go. (*Haley Smith, Your Say, 10/1/14*)

2. Too many knives

If the recent knife laws and fine increases (up to \$1000) will make our city streets safer then it’s worth a go.

Evidently, only those who might wish to cause harm may be annoyed at the new laws.

During one raid at Shoking Station recently, the police confiscated 20 knives and a variety of knuckledusters.

It’s either them or us. (*Jack Crackow, Your Say, 9/6/14*)

1. Identify the “tone tip” above.

What is the author’s tone?

2 Identify the “tone tip” above.

What is the tone?

Writing about the author's views

The author	asserts / maintains/states contends/ claims/ declares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the police do not have sufficient power to control binge drinking. that there should be height controls for urban development on suburban beach fronts.
	supports/ defends/ approves of	
The writer	advocates (to plead in favour of, support or urge by argument; recommend publicly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the introduction of free travel on public transport. a tax on junk food.
The environmentalist/activist	disapproves of/ condemns (to speak badly/disparagingly of; to disapprove of)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> logging in catchment areas. proposals to open new uranium mines.
The editor	discredits (to lower other people's opinion of/on; to cause not to be believed; to destroy confidence in)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Government's proposal to introduce "fat" police to monitor people's weight and give on-the-job health checks.
The writer	challenges (to call into question; to take exception to)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the view that more people will commute by public transport.
The author	dissuades	

Writing about the author's tone

Using a tone word as an adjective

Ms Snelling adopts a [...] tone when she states [...].

In a [...] tone, Mr Smith seeks to convince members of the public that [...].

The author adopts a/an (dogmatic, resolute, emphatic, assertive) tone to contend that the reference to [...] reveals a threatening/mocking tone and reflects the author's view that [...]

Using a tone word as an adverb:

The editor states forcefully that [...]

The author contends/asserts dogmatically that they should wear a Toddler Tag.

Mr Scott (cautiously/respectfully) claims that the Tag is the ideal way to show care and concern.

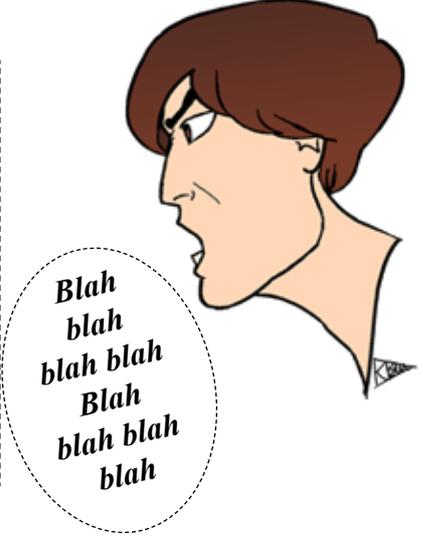
Irony — Irony is the use of words whose ordinary meaning is more or less the opposite of what the speaker intends. It often involves an element of humour through understatement, ridicule or play. *Why not cull the Eastern grey kangaroo? Perhaps we can serve it up as a delicacy for the Japanese who are becoming starved of whale meat.*

Sarcasm — Sarcasm is a bitter remark intended to scorn, belittle or hurt the feelings of the individual at whom it is aimed. It might involve an ironical taunt that involves the trick of saying the opposite of what one really means, so as to hurt someone's feelings. *It's easy being a climate change denier. If someone tells you that the past decade has been the hottest on record, just say that it is cold today.*

A "what-a-fool" tone

Exercise 3

judgemental	inclined to pass judgement, especially in a dogmatic fashion
exasperated	extremely annoyed, irritated, fed up
dismayed	feeling of disappointment or fear
reproachful	blaming or disapproving
ensorious	critical and fault-finding
derogatory	unfairly critical, tending to belittle
accusatory	accusing
high-minded	having or characterised by high moral principles
adamant	staying firm in what you decide



A dog's life

Mornington Council's decision to make dog owners use a one-metre leash is outrageous. It is so unfair for all of us sensible owners. Do they want us to choke our dogs every time we go for a walk? The point of going for a walk is to give our dogs some necessary activity, to enjoy the outdoors and to sniff and smell at their (pl)leisure.

Make rules for the irresponsible owners who fail to control their dogs, but don't penalise those who are having a friendly outing with dogs they can manage.

Maybe the councillors have something against dogs?

Jack Smith, Brunburn



What is Mr Smith's view about the council's rule? How would you describe his tone?

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Bottle shops around the corner

The Government must not allow any bottle shops to be located near high schools.

There is one in Smithtown, right opposite the high school, and its extra-large billboards advertise cheap alcopops and beer.

I can't understand how they even obtained a permit from the Council to open up in the first place. It's an absolute disgrace.

A little bit of leadership goes a long way.

Peter Horner, High Town

Identify two tone tips and describe the tone.

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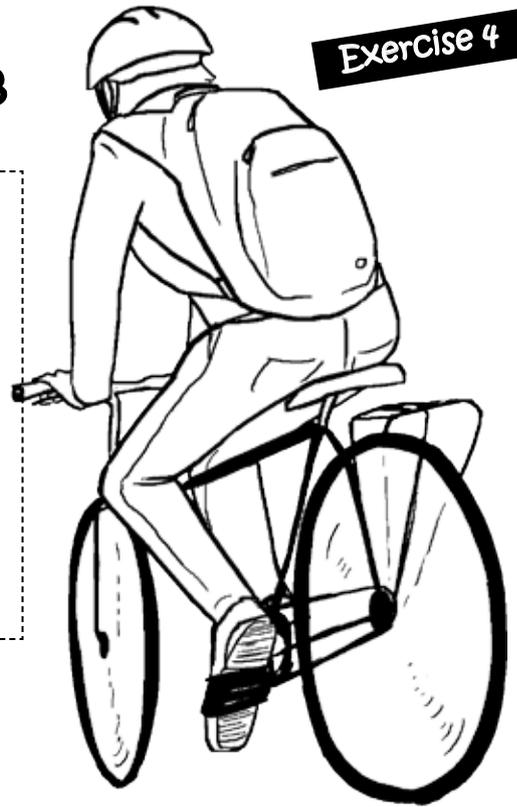
2.

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A "hand-on-my-heart" tone

Exercise 4

solicitous	showing care and consideration
respectful	courteous, deferential
considered	presented or thought out with care; measured
earnest	serious or sincere
candid	honest, sincere, frank
personable	having a pleasing character
amiable	friendly and agreeable
poignant	keenly distressing to the feelings; sensitive
civil	polite
buoyant	optimistic and upbeat



The bottom line is ...

Finally, some good news for cyclists!
 The Government has just announced \$100 million to improve bike paths throughout the city. But why does it take a spate of accidents before the Government takes action? Remember, June Crosby who was struck down by the bus? And then, there's my poor daughter who is recovering in hospital. She was riding to work last week when a driver sped up to make a left turn in front of her. She braked suddenly to avoid a collision with the car, but flipped over the handlebars, landing on her face and breaking her jaw.
 The bottom line is that drivers must show greater care and consideration towards others. Please slow down.

Julie Winter, Bentleigh (The Daily)

Teens doing their bit

As heart-warming proof that we oldies should have more faith in the younger generation, I was encouraged by the display of manners shown by the group of school boys on the 101 tram travelling on the busy St Kilda Road route yesterday. One of their group was the first to instinctively give up his seat to the pregnant lady who boarded the tram at the lights and made sure that she safely alighted the tram a few stops later.
 Later, I noticed one of his friends, who got off the tram, go out of his way to place his banana peel in the bin, picking up some of the neighbouring rubbish strewn on the footpath.
 Congratulations are well deserved to these fine young boys who are a credit to their parents and to their school. **Ave Peter**

Describe Ms Winter's tone. Give examples.

1.

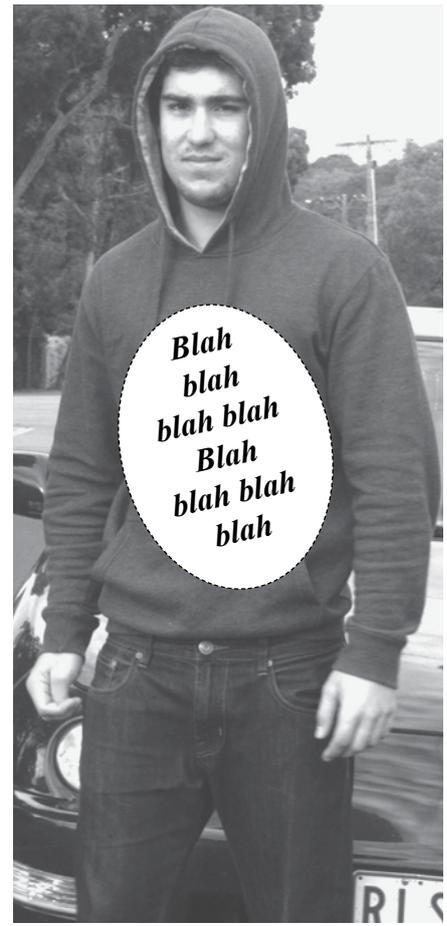
2.

3.

A "how-dare-you" tone

Exercise 5

indignant	angry at something you think is unfair, wicked or base; righteous anger
blunt	curt, terse; forthright
exasperated	highly irritated and annoyed; infuriated
dismayed	very disappointed; utterly disheartened or worried
incensed	made angry
dogmatic	saying what you think very forcefully and expecting others to accept it as true
forthright	straight to the point; direct; straightforward
adamant	assertive; confident and positive
authoritative	having or showing power or an ability to control



Drugs in sport

The MFL must be tough on drugs. In light of the David Hones' and other West Island players' drug-abuse cases the MFL must send a message that drug users will not be tolerated. If players use drugs and get caught they should be expelled from the MFL.

As soon as Hones took illicit drugs and abused his influence, he should have been suspended. After all, he is a championship player and a poster boy for the younger generation.

Illicit drugs have fatal consequences for the user. They ruin the lives of addicts and family members.

Most importantly, the MFL must ensure that players provide an appropriate example to children when it comes to drugs.

These players get paid more than the Prime Minister and with their power and status, it is important they act responsibly.

Janie Haughton, Box Hill

1. Which words and phrases does Helen use to criticise the lifestyle habits of consumers?

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2. What image is suggested by the use of such words? What is its purpose?

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An "I-can't-believe-it" tone

Exercise 6

incredulous	not willing to believe
astounded	to overcome with amazement
reflective	thinking about
stern	forthright and blunt
outraged	
provocative	making angry or annoyed; stirring up
alarmed	
flabbergasted	greatly surprised
fervent	showing warmth or earnestness of feeling; ardent
fiery	easily angered, irritable, impetuous, passionate.

A family affair

On October 14, 2012, a mother was warned by police officers that she risked being charged with "assault with a weapon". And the weapon? Not a knife. Not even a strap. No! A wooden spoon!

I can't believe that the police have so little to do that they are interested in a mother's method of discipline. Really, if there isn't an obvious case of violence, should they be interfering in family life?

Luke James, Black Rock

Restricted breeds

Our dog is on trial. It was locked up by the Smiggledon Council because it appeared to be on their "restricted" list. Now it's up to us to prove that Biffy is not an American killer dog. We've tried all avenues; appeared before the Council Courts and provided documents that prove that Biffy only has 5% of the American pedigree. The Council disagrees. It's a stalemate, and meanwhile Biffy suffers and we've forked out a fortune.

1640 AEST Sally Tue Nov 18 2014



1. What is the editor's main contention?.....

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2. What is the editor's main contention?.....

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A "how-stupid-are-you" tone

Exercise 7



dismissive	deciding that something is not true or important enough to be considered
	defensive acting as if you are being attacked or are feeling threatened
cynical	distrusting the motives of others; like or characteristic of a cynic — someone who does not believe in the goodness of people or events and is often scornful of them
ridiculing	deriding; making fun of, jeering at
derisory	mocking
sarcastic	the saying of harsh and bitter things, especially by using the trick of saying the opposite of what you really mean, so as to hurt someone's feelings
sceptical	doubting what most people accept without question
deprecating	expressing earnest disapproval of

propose a scheme, a proposal or another person's views, they will often use critical and attacking language. Their choice of words will often have negative connotations. Their tone may be firm and polite, or harsh and scornful. They might also make fun of another's views in a humorous or cynical way. While they should focus on the weaknesses in the opponents' views, such as their double standards or biases, authors often become personal and in extreme

Water for the wealthy

Water can't be organically based. It's a nonsense designed to trick consumers into believing they are buying something special. And the suckers line up for more.

The organic food industry is booming, with ever more people duped into thinking that paying two or three times more for organic food products will provide them with healthier, safer food.

It's fine for the wealthy trendies to indulge their foolish food fad, but what about the starving millions that have to be fed around the world?

Helen, AEST 10.00am, 3rd August 2015

Get real Helen!

I work in an organics shop and the number of stories I have heard about organic food vastly improving immune systems and curing minor ailments are numerous. Also exc-cancer patients have told me that after switching to an all-organic diet and ditching chemo they have lived beyond their expiry dates. Have you even looked at any of the good things that organics have proven to have done. Or do you just spout off "research" against the industry?"

A quick glance at the internet shows that there is just as much research for as against organic products. **Jim, 10.30am, 3rd August 2015**

1. Which words and phrases best reflect Helen's tone and her attitude towards consumers?

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2. What image is suggested by the use of such words? What is its purpose?

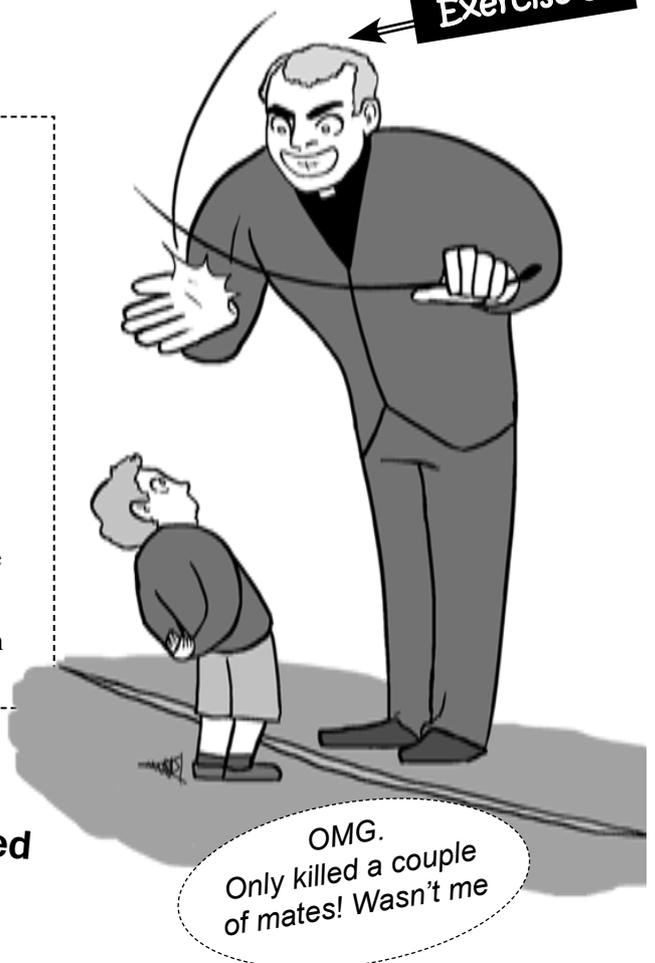
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A "told-you-so" tone

Exercise 8

self-righteous	convinced that you know and do what is morally right in a way that annoys others; sanctimonious
high-minded	having or characterised by high moral principles; haughty; upstanding.
flattering	trying to please by compliments or praise even if you do not mean them
smug	very pleased with yourself but in a way that annoys others
derogatory	unfairly critical; tending to belittle
indignant	righteous anger
judgemental	inclined to pass judgement; esp. in a dogmatic fashion



Hoon drivers should be horse-whipped

No one would want their worst enemy to experience the pain of those parents who lost their kids in the recent hoon tragedy.

The driver was under 18 and so were the passengers. He was travelling so fast that he didn't stand a chance when he lost control of his high-powered V-8.

That driver was an idiot, a complete moron, even if he wasn't under the influence of alcohol, and his parents should say so. They should apologise to everyone involved for what their son did to the other parents and friends. These bloody idiots have to be shown just how dumb they were. And as for his friends! Why would you trust a moron like that?

Rather than encouraging him, someone should have given him a whack to drum an ounce of sense into him.

What is Mr Miah's view on young drivers' access to powerful cars?

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Jeremy Miah, Black Rock

Which words best reflect his attitude and tone?

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A "fed-up" tone

scornful	jeering, showing strong disgust, disapproval or disdain
relieved; reassuring	
high-minded	having or characterised by high moral principles; haughty; upstanding.
indignant	showing anger at something that you think is unfair; or base; righteous anger
exasperated	fed up, easily angered, infuriated
supportive	positive
solicitous	anxious, concerned or careful
self-assured	self-confident and positive
emphatic	uttered with emphasis, strongly expressive



Outright bans!

According to the police, up to half the number of road accidents are caused by unnecessary distractions such as the use of mobile phones. Whilst I agree, that bans on the use of phones whilst driving are long overdue, what about all the other distractions?

Whilst taking the bus to work each morning, I watch the cars go by. It seems quite normal for drivers to eat breakfast behind the wheel. One driver was spooning food into his mouth while waiting at the lights. I often see women applying makeup, fiddling with their mascara and bopping up and down in front of mirrors. Not to mention smoking! How often do I see drivers get out a cigarette, find a lighter, and attempt to focus on the end of the cigarette while they light it. Too bad if they miss the lights.

Penny Abbey, Hampton Park

I'm sick and tired of listening to everybody else's tedious conversations on the tram. I don't need to listen to a mother telling her daughter to protect her profile on MyFace after her ex-boyfriend threatened to take revenge, or to the 20-year old manager giving orders to a staff member in a very patronising voice. Does anyone care? They are so discourteous. They shout and laugh as if their conversations were so precious. It's like everyone needs to know that they are on a tram in the middle of Burke Street.

So I was heartened to read of the stance taken by Ms Swinfried, mayor of Coolabar to ban mobiles on public transport in the CBD.

TransportX should implement the bans as swiftly as possible. Let common sense prevail.

Jon Madows, Posted, AEST 2:57

1. Identify which words best reinforce Ms Abbey's views. How does she depict drivers?

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2. Identify which words best reinforce Ms Abbey's views. How does she depict drivers?

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A "wa-do-ya-no" tone

colloquial	every-day speech
conversational	having the characteristics of a conversation
personable	having a pleasing character
affable	friendly, polite, easy to get on with
confessional	of, or of the nature of, confession; (admitting to a secret, fault, debt, etc.)
blunt	curt, terse, abrupt
reproachful	blaming, disapproving
exasperated	fed up



A new lingo

LIKE, I'm on the train, right? It's, like, 9 o'clock on Saturday morning and it's f---ing freezing? Like nine degrees or something? And these two chicks get on and their skirts are right up to their, like bums? Then a real cool dude with a backpack swings on and they both, like, take their ear phones out? And we all hear that "you gotta be kidding?" "Whadidde do tha for?" And then we all hear the response, hey, that he's "switched off 'n all". And we find out that they aren't gonna see Shoza cos he slept in. So they wanna go and rouse up Jonno instead. They get off at Richmond. Oh my God, Cam's backpack gave me a real whack as he got off and he f---ing diddna even notice, cos' we don't exist, like?

Susie Piper, Black Town

A useless trip

The Department doesn't give a stuff. It sent Abdul Ahmid home, but hell knows where home is. He is a refugee for goodness sake. he hasn't got a passport and so doesn't belong anywhere. And what do they do? They bundle him up like a piece of unwanted garbage, toss him in the plane like vegetable scraps and try to find a home. Then he ended up back here anyway. Cost a lousy \$200,00. They should have checked everything first.

Ching Hang, Meredith Town

Find three colloquial elements in "A new lingo?"

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Why is Ms Piper using colloquial speech? What is her view about the train travellers and her tone?

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Explain Ms Hang's views and give examples of her tone.

1.
1.
1.
1.
1.

An "I-know-best" tone

assertive	confident and positive
authoritative	having or showing power or an ability to control
dogmatic	saying what you think very forcefully and expecting others to accept it as true (peremptory)
emphatic	uttered with emphasis, strongly expressive
adamant	staying firm in what you decide
forthright	straight to the point; outspoken; direct; straightforward
dispassionate	unbiased, not affected by your personal feelings or bias



I know and you don't

A need for a level playing ground.

Girls need a fair game

While I can sympathise with Jack Brimbank, the 13-year old boy (of 185 centimetres) from Banyule who wants to play netball, there is a good case to uphold the Association's ban.

It's a pity that there is not a parallel boy's competition; however in its absence, Jack should not be allowed to join the girls' team.

Although the decision might seem sexist, we need to keep in mind that girls have the right to a level playing field, too. Clearly there are differences between genders at such a tender age and the inclusion of a boy would change the dynamics of the game. Many girls will feel threatened and it will give some teams an unfair advantage.

Quite seriously, such a plan would discourage women from playing and would just hand over the competition to the (tall) men. We must also respect the girls' sensitivities as they go through puberty. Even Joanne Smith, the head coach of our rival team St Eva's of Nobledean, said that when a boy is present on the court, the girls "think they have to modify their behaviour". In other words, the girls are thrown off their game.

Ms Helen Tanmount, netball coach, Black Rock Netball Association.

Explain Ms Ms Tanmount's views and give examples of her tone. Use quotes, and make sure they fit suit the grammar of your sentence.

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A defiant tone

Exercise 12

incredulous	not willing to believe
dumbfounded	to strike someone dumb with amazement
astounded	to overcome with amazement
flabbergasted	greatly surprised
defiant	daring challenge to authority or opposing force
antagonistic	acting in opposition
intimidating	frightening in order to force someone into doing something
inflammatory	easily set on fire; kindling passion or anger



Online at freedmpress.com

June 18, 2014



Free gawking

THE owner of the Tree Hotel has every right to ban heterosexuals and lesbians.

Heterosexuals can go to any other hotel they like, so why do they need to hang out at the Tree Hotel as well? The Tree's manager, Tom McFeely, says he got the exemption after complaints from gays that they felt like zoo animals.

That's exactly how we feel at times. For us regulars, it's obvious that people just come to gawk and guffaw. Some call us fags and spit, while others yell abuse at us and tell us to "get a life".

At least now we've got a place to go where we feel safe and relaxed. We can escape the stares and insults from the tuff guys. There are 2000 venues where heterosexuals can go so why do they want to come to the Tree? Obviously, they're miffed because they're excluded for once in their lives. Let's face it, everyone clicks with their own kind. Go look at the city. Almost every culture sticks to itself.

And we're not the only ones seeking exemptions. Fernwood Fitness Club restricts membership to women. Muslim women may exclude non-Muslims from sessions at public pools. Go gawk at them!

Troy, Posted 3.10

1. What are Troy's views on the Tree Hotel?

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2. Give three examples of Troy's use of colloquial language and its tone. Explain its purpose.

(i)

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(ii)

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(iii)

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A sensible tone

← Exercise 13



assertive	confident and positive
authoritative	having or showing power or an ability to control
imperative	very important or urgent
emphatic	uttered with emphasis, strongly expressive
diplomatic	saying the right thing in situations to avoid offending people
prudent	careful and wise in a practical way
considered	presented or thought out with care; sensible
civil	courteous and polite
forthright	straight to the point; outspoken; direct

Let's go green sensibly

“Of course the plastic bag problem cannot be binned.

Australians throw away about three billion plastic bags a year, most discarded after one use. These petroleum based nuisances clog our rivers and drains, killing birds and marine life while taking generations to break down. Only 5 per cent of our plastic bags are being recycled.

There has been much debate on what to do, but little thoughtful action.

Mr Garrett recently signalled he wanted free plastic bags banned.

But if we replaced plastic with paper bags, would we need to cut down more trees? It may be better to look at alternatives such as biodegradable plastic

bags commonly used in the US.

Effective social change can be encouraged, but never legislated. The State Government is rightly relying on common sense to persuade Victorians to ditch bottled water.

New studies show it takes up to seven litres of tap water and a litre of petrol to produce one litre of the bottled stuff, and discarded water bottles account for 38 per cent of general waste. The telling statistic from a Sunday Herald Sun blind taste test is that most people prefer the taste of tap water and 20 per cent cannot tell the difference.

The bottom line is that we will always best care for our environment when encouraged, not forced, to act sensibly.” **(Editor, Herald Sun)**

Sunday Herald Sun, 9/3/08. Published courtesy of the Herald & Weekly Times. Bold type is for purposes of emphasis.

What are the Editor’s views about plastic bags and bottled water? Give examples of their tone and explain their purpose.

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adamant (staying firm in what you decide)
forthright; defensive; incredulous
dismayed; / infuriated / exasperated (very annoying)
conciliatory (overcoming someone's distrust by gentle means) **sincere/frank**
 outraged; censorious; reproachful
infuriated; exasperated reasonable; measured;
 defensive; circumspect; diplomatic ; conciliatory



The cows are not at home

When is milk not milk?
 I was astounded to discover from a manager of one of the major supermarkets recently that most major brands of milk are actually manufactured from a powdered product imported from Holland.
 I, like most consumers, felt completely cheated.
 So what does “homogenised and pasteurised milk” mean?
 Obviously not cow milk. Where have the cows gone?
 Some honest straightforward food labelling like “powdered product” would be a great start to helping consumers understand what they are buying. **Mr Smith, 4/2/11**

Tone:

The Liberty Kids

Calling themselves the Liberty Kids, the Coolabar Secondary College students boycotted the canteen. They complained that costs were increasing, especially those of healthy items.
 “I know they mean well, but students are simply out of touch with the cost of food. Or maybe they are used to fish and chips and hamburgers, which aren’t as expensive as a salad sandwich. This year we hired a chef to cook fresh meals. This has added to the cost of our delicious menu, but we do all we can to keep the cost of healthy foods affordable for our students.”
Garth Trend, Vice Principal, Coolabar S.C.

Tone:

Girl look-a-likes

As if it’s not bad enough that our girls have to be anorexic to survive on the catwalk. Now it’s the turn of the males!
 A six-pack and bulging biceps used to be fashionable. Now they have to shed the kilos to fit into ridiculously tight jeans. Some look as if they are dying! Who is looking at these magazines and buying these clothes? We must stop this mania and encourage boys to bulk up. Boys should be boys. Not girl-look-alikes.
JOFFA

Tone:

Choose one of the above articles and explain the author’s attitude and tone:

1.
2.

An "are-you-really-serious" tone

Exercise 15

facetious	
ironic	
sarcastic	
pragmatic	
derisory	mocking
inclusive	
sceptical	
jocular	
probing	
diplomatic	careful to avoid offending people
prudent	careful and wise in a practical way



You have to think twice!

We must “question these people’s right to turn a loving institution into a fortress, by graffitiing its walls with slogans: NO GAYS ALLOWED. The anti-gay marriage campaigner is like a child fighting over a toy, jealously guarding something that doesn’t belong to them in the first place, simply because SOMEONE ELSE might want it. ‘It’s mine! Oooh yuk! Gay germs!’”

To borrow from the wisdom of parents, I feel the best approach is to tell these people that I don’t want to play with them if they’re going to be so mean about it.

Any couple deemed unworthy by law to be married has every right to feel outraged and excluded. . In light of the childish tantrums thrown by the hardline marriage folk, being unhitched makes me feel grown up.” (“Straight and narrow not so hallowed”, Mic Looby, *The Age*, 10/2/12)

Many in Bedfordshire reject a proposal for wind farms. Why? Because according to them, wind farms would “spoil the view”. Some citizens find wind farms “utterly offensive” and a “blight on the landscape.” However, if you don’t build wind turbines, then in a few decades your view will either be under water, or on fire.

Or what about the fact that it will reduce “the enjoyment of local footpaths”. Good grief. They’ll be hard to use when Mother Nature turns our footpaths into swimming lanes. Yes, little things do matter.

Besides, are the alternatives such as open-cut coal mines and electric pylons snaking across the landscape, so desirable. Or what about the citizens in Morwell trying to cope with the problems of living close to a fossil fuel power station. **Scott Baker.**

What are the Editor’s views about plastic bags and bottled water? Give examples of their tone and explain their purpose.

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A "what-did-I-tell-you" tone

imperious	arrogant or bossy
self-assured	self-confident
reassuring	restoring confidence
plainspoken	candid, frank, blunt
exasperated	fed up, infuriated
disbelieving (disbelief)	rejecting as false; inability to believe
astounded	dumbounded, amazed, stupefied
derisory	mocking
defensive	protective; having to do with defence (especially when it is not called for)



Turn it to the left, Valerie Smith

When my son tells me that they've got an annoying sound in their ears, my reply will be, "I told you so." Not once but a hundred times.

Loud music thrashing the ear drums day and night equals tinnitus and hearing loss. Who in their right minds would court such a horrible affliction?

And yet the teenagers keep turning it up louder and louder and louder.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Statistics in the United States suggest that up to 5 million Americans aged six to 18 suffer from hearing loss. So what's the solution?

Governments must introduce laws to place volume limits on

MP3 players and iPods. The European Union has taken a lead. Well done!

Hands off the panic button

There is no need to panic about the use of mobile phones. Be assured that we are keen to ensure that our consumers are using a safe product. The fact is that to date, there is no evidence to suggest that mobile phones damage people's health. Our handsets are designed, built and tested according to strict, science-based guidelines.

Mr Peter Christon, the chief executive of the Telstar Mobile Telecommunications Association,

Choose two words that show Joffa's attitude and explain their purpose:

1.
2.

A put-down tone

Exercise 17

provocative	making angry or annoyed; stirring up
scornful	jeering, showing strong disgust, disapproval or disdain
contemptuous	showing contempt and disdain — the feeling that someone or something is mean, disgraceful or worthless
condescending	to act as if you are in a higher social position than others or as if you are doing others a favour;
curt, blunt	abrupt, forthright, straight-to-the-point
inflammatory	easily set on fire; kindling passion or anger
derogatory	unfairly critical
self-righteous	convinced that you know and do what is morally right in a way that annoys others.



EDITORIAL: “Put ’em in chains” (2JK Radio)

JOCK VANDER: Graffiti vandalism is a huge community problem. Trains are constantly vandalised with offensive and disturbing images. It costs the Crackow Shire about \$80,000 annually to clean up the mess. Some pseudo-intellectuals are trying to persuade authorities that it is a legitimate form of expression, but no psychobabble is sufficient to legitimise the activities of these knuckleheads. What taggers do equates to ugly scribble done by a bonehead with a spray can. They deface properties, wreck public spaces, cause mayhem and should be penalised for their nuisance value.

Police admit that these so-called artists eventually graduate to more serious crimes. We should be sceptical of the forum that is being organised by the City of Crackow. The title, “Graffiti Management: A Shared Responsibility”, is misleading. In my view, responsibility lies solely with the offenders. Councillor Johnson should be commended for his forthright views. He believes that offenders should be “put in a chain gang and forced to clean up their mess”. Parents should also be made to bear the costs if children refuse to participate. Let’s hear your views. (10/9/08)

VOX POP 2JK Radio talkback



Janie Smith:
(44, East Brighton):

How can the councillor be so heartless?

Has he no kids? All he wants to do is kick the kids while they’re down. He seems to have come straight off the ship in chains himself!



Luke Tregon:
(55, Carnegie)

I reckon it’s just not on using so much of the council’s money to clean up after them. If

the parents can’t look after them then someone’s gotta pay. Why not teach ’em a lesson right from the start and that will set ’em straight!



Pat Effat:(65, Greensborough)

There’s an alley opposite my house and quite frankly it looks so much better with a dash of colour.

And some of the paintings are excellent, don’t you think?

Besides, every time they clean it, you just get another work of art. Why bother?

1. Make a list of negative words used in the editorial that reflect Mr Vander's views about graffiti artists. Explain the effect on readers.

Words	Tone, purpose and impact
"some <i>pseudo-intellectuals</i> are trying to persuade authorities ..."	derisory tone; negative connotations: this label casts aspersions on the credibility of those who approve of graffiti as a valid form of creativity

2. Who is the target audience and what is the likely effect of such language on readers or listeners?

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Vox Pop:

3. Explain each person's views on graffiti. Which words and phrases reveal their attitude? What is their tone?

Views	Choice of words	Tone and impact
Ms J Smith		
Mr L Tregon		
Ms P Effat		

Using negative words

The author uses **derogatory** (unfairly critical; tending to belittle) words such as [...] [...] is a **pejorative** term (a statement that expresses disapproval) to refer to [...]

The author uses **disparaging language** (speaking poorly or badly of someone or something) [...] **and the effect?** to belittle; to question (impugn) their motives; to trivialise their purpose, to cast aspersions on their motives, to ridicule their stance; to provoke indignation, to create a distance, to isolate

- ◆ The author adopts an exasperated tone to criticise the Mornington council’s decision to control dog leashes.
- ◆ Mr Horner adopts a dismayed tone to discredit the decision to grant a permit to the bottle shop.
- ◆ Adopting a high-minded tone, Mr Smith accuses the council of discrimination against dogs.
- ◆ Mr Smith uses an exasperated tone to impugn the council’s decision with regards to the size of the dog leash.

Exercise 4: “Give cyclists a break” by Ms Julie Winter

View: Ms Winter maintains that it is important for the government to provide bicycle paths for cyclists.

- ◆ “Why does it take a spate of accidents ...?”; frustrated; dismayed.
- ◆ The references to the two accidents: respectful, sincere, honest and candid tone.
- ◆ “Please slow down”; respectful, courteous and urgent.
- ◆ The drivers’ “reckless behaviour is harming others”; high-minded and stern”.
- ◆ “why does it take a spate of accidents?”; Adopting a dismayed tone, the author questions why it takes the government so long to act.
- ◆ (using noun phrases): Adopting a dismayed tone, the author questions the government’s indecision.
- ◆ poignant; candid: Poignantly, the author refers to her daughter’s personal experience and the agony resulting from the careless accident.



Impact/ purpose: Ms Winter’s candid and sympathetic first-hand reference to her daughter draws attention to the consequences of the indifferent driving habits of many motorists. Accordingly, the author encourages us to feel indignant at such reckless behaviour.

Exercise 4: “Teens doing their bit”

- ◆ *personable; congenial; amiable; sanguine;*

The author adopts a personable and congenial tone to praise the school children who showed considerable courtesy to fellow commuters.

Ms Peter assumes a sanguine tone to praise the group of schoolboys on the tram.

Ms Peter’s solicitous description of the young boy suggests that we should value their respect and courtesy.

Adopting a buoyant tone, Ms Peter seeks to dismantle/challenge the stereotypical view of young people as inconsiderate and rude.

Exercise 5: Drugs in sport by Ms Janie Haughton

- ◆ *assertive, dogmatic, stern, forthright*

View: Ms Haughton discredits the MFL because of its casual approach to the players’ drug offences. She believes the MFL must suspend players who use drugs.

Ms Haughton adopts an indignant tone to convey her dismay at the fact that David Hones was not suspended.