

Analyzing Tone

Tone: The author's attitude during a specific situation.

- Tone will be used as a literary device in a rhetorical analysis essay.
- Tone must be proven by a specific aspect of the quote used for analysis. Ways to prove tone include:

- **Diction:** The author's choice of words

Ex: "steeling myself to absorb his understandable rage" (Stevenson 73).

- Learned diction "understandable" matter-of-fact tone

- **Structure:** Choices in sentence format and style

Ex: "Did your client kill our baby?" (Stevenson 139).

- Interrogative syntax accusatory tone

- **Figurative Language:** Word connotations and figurative meanings

Ex: "His life descended into a nightmare" (Stevenson 130).

- Metaphor of "nightmare" grim tone

- **Sensory Imagery:** Detailed descriptions

Ex: "concrete box the size of a... closet" (Stevenson 152).

- Claustrophobic imagery of "closet" gloomy tone

