

Name: _____ Date: _____

What's the Tone?

Tone is the author's attitude toward either the subject he or she is writing about or toward the reader.

Words that could describe tone include *doubtful*, *humorous*, *gleeful*, *serious*, and *questioning*.

Tone is conveyed through the author's word choices and the details that he or she includes.

Directions: Read "Should Kids Get Paid to Do Chores?" Then read the examples and answer the questions below to explore the tone of each letter.

"I Deserve It"
from Megan

1. One word that describes the tone of Megan's letter is helpful. Here are two reasons why:

- A. Megan begins her letter by mentioning two problems her parents face and then telling them how she can help. She writes, "You know how you and Dad are totally stressed out? And you know how I am always asking you for money? Well, I have the perfect solution to both problems: Pay me to help around the house."
- B. Megan spins her proposal in a way that makes it sound like paying her to do chores will help her grow as a person. When she lists ways that being paid to do chores would benefit her, she only lists ways that her parents would likely find appealing. For example, Megan states that her plan will make her successful in school and in her career, and teach her responsibility and how to manage money. Presumably, these are all things her parents want to teach her; Megan sounds like she's offering a way to help them do it.

2. Another word that describes the tone of Megan's letter is confident. Here is one reason why:

- A. "This plan will make your life easier," Megan writes, "and it will be good for me." This sentence conveys confidence: Megan states what *will* happen, not what might happen.

Write another reason the tone could be described as confident:

- B. _____

3. Another word that describes the tone of the letter is _____ (*fill in the blank*).

Write two reasons the tone could be described with the word you wrote in the blank:

A. _____

B. _____

"It's Not About Money"
from Megan's mom

4. One word that describes the tone of Mom's letter is *reasonable*. Here is one reason why:

A. Mom clearly explains why she is rejecting Megan's proposal. She writes, "Doing chores isn't the same as having a paying job. Chores have to be done—whether you get paid or not."

Write another reason the tone could be described as reasonable:

B. _____

5. Another word that describes the tone of Mom's letter is _____ (*fill in the blank*).

Write two reasons the tone could be described this way:

A. _____

B. _____

6. Mom's tone shifts in the last paragraph of her letter. A word that describes the tone of the last paragraph is _____ (*fill in the blank*).

Write one reason the tone could be described with the word you wrote in the blank:

