

DIDLS

Diction

the connotation or associations of word choice

*Different words for the same thing often suggest different attitudes toward that thing. **Ex:** What is the difference between happy and content? How about happy and ecstatic?*

Images

vivid appeals to understanding through the five senses

*The images a speaker/writer chooses to present suggest her attitude toward her subject. **Ex:** If a narrator visiting a farm describes the awful smells rather than the beautiful countryside that would tell us something about his attitude.*

Details

facts that are included or those that are omitted

*If a narrator witnesses a horrible sight and withholds the gory details, his attitude would be different than a narrator who focuses mostly on the gory details. **Ex:** Hard Copy vs. CNN*

Language

the overall use of language such as formal, colloquial, clinical, or jargon

An ambassador talks differently than Huck Finn who talks differently than a doctor who talks differently than a cop. The type of overall language used tells us something about their attitude.

Sentence Structure

how the sentence structure affects the reader's attitude

Long, flowing sentences give us a different feeling than short, choppy ones. If the narrator has awkward sentence structure, we might think he is uneducated. Long flowing sentences might suggest sophistication or artistic creativity.