

## Nonfiction Analysis Help Handout: More About Language

Use this to help you fill out the Nonfiction Analysis Worksheet

Language refers to characteristics of the body of words used (slang, jargon, scholarly language, etc.)

### Questions to ask yourself:

How could the language be described?

How does the language affect your mood as a reader?

What does the language seem to indicate about the author's tone?

Some words to describe language:

<b>Artificial</b>	false	<b>Literal</b>	apparent, word for word
<b>Bombastic</b>	pompous, ostentatious	<b>Moralistic</b>	puritanical, righteous
<b>Colloquial</b>	vernacular	<b>Obscure</b>	unclear
<b>Concrete</b>	actual, specific, particular	<b>Obtuse</b>	dull-witted, undiscerning
<b>Connotative</b>	alludes to; suggestive	<b>Ordinary</b>	everyday, common
<b>Cultured</b>	cultivated, refined, finished	<b>Pedantic</b>	didactic, scholastic, bookish
<b>Detached</b>	cut-off, removed, separated	<b>Plain</b>	clear, obvious
<b>Emotional</b>	expressive of emotions	<b>Poetic</b>	lyric, melodious, romantic
<b>Esoteric</b>	understood by a chosen few	<b>Precise</b>	exact, accurate, decisive
<b>Euphemistic</b>	insincere, affected	<b>Pretentious</b>	pompous, gaudy, inflated
<b>Exact</b>	verbatim, precise	<b>Provincial</b>	rural, rustic, unpolished
<b>Figurative</b>	serving as illustration	<b>Scholarly</b>	intellectual, academic
<b>Formal</b>	academic, conventional	<b>Sensuous</b>	passionate, luscious

<b>Grotesque</b>	hideous, deformed	<b>Simple</b>	clear, intelligible
<b>Homespun</b>	folksy, homey, native, rustic	<b>Slang</b>	lingo, colloquialism
<b>Idiomatic</b>	Peculiar, vernacular	<b>Symbolic</b>	representative, metaphorical
<b>Inspid</b>	uninteresting, tame, dull	<b>Trite</b>	common, banal, stereotyped
<b>Jargon</b>	vocabulary for a profession	<b>Informal</b>	casual, relaxed, unofficial
<b>Learned</b>	educated, experienced	<b>Vulgar</b>	coarse, indecent, tasteless