**DENOTATION/CONNOTATION EXERCISES**

**I.** *For each pair of words and a phrase, list the one that is positive in the “Positive Connotation” category, the one that is negative in the “Negative Connotation” category, and the phrase that is a more neutral definition for both words in the "neutral" column.*

1. gaze, look steadily, stare

2. fragrance, odor, a smell sensed by the olfactory nerve

3. brainwash, persuade, influence one way or another

4. delayed, not on time, tardy

5. somewhat interested, nosy, curious

6. lazily, without haste, leisurely

7. ask of someone, demand, request

8. gathering, a large group, mob

9. slim, skinny, less than average build

10. discuss with others, debate, argue

11. observe, watch, spy

12. a young age, youthful, immature

13. not having a care, irresponsible, carefree,

14. unique, not commonly found, strange

15. find, detect, snoop

16. inexpensive, fairly priced, or cheap

17. isolation, privacy, having an opportunity to be alone

18. assertive, firmly confident, pushy

19. extravagance, generosity, giving much,

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Positive Connotation*** | ***Neutral*** | ***Negative Connotation*** |
| 1 |  |  |  |
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**III.** *Practice shifting your viewpoint so that you can describe the same object both favorably and unfavorably. You can do this by first using words with a positive connotation and then switching to words with a negative connotation. Write a short description that is favorable and a short description that is unfavorable for each of the topics listed below.*

***For example,*** *you might describe a* ***banana*** *as either sweetly ripe or mushy, depending on the desired connotation.*

1. Describe a wet street after the rain.

Positive:

Negative:

1. Describe a college or professional football game.

Positive:

Negative:

1. Describe a hamburger made in a fast-food restaurant.

Positive:

Negative:

4. Describe a recent movie or television program.

Positive:

Negative:

5. Describe a group of teenagers walking down the street.

Positive:

Negative:

6. Describe an outfit that you have worn.

Positive:

Negative: