The Four Sentence Types and Mood

When students learn to write, they begin by learning about the four types of sentences and the role punctuation plays in determining and creating those different sentence types.

There are four types of sentences in the English:

- Declarative sentence
- Imperative sentence
- Interrogative sentence
- Exclamatory sentence

And there are only three punctuation marks with which to end a sentence:

- Period
- Question mark
- Exclamation point

Using different types of sentences and punctuation, students can vary the tone of their writing assignments and express a variety of thoughts and emotions.

A declarative sentence simply makes a statement or expresses an opinion. In other words, it makes a declaration. This kind of sentence ends with a period.

Examples of this sentence type:

“I want to be a good writer.” (makes a statement)

“My friend is a really good writer.” (expresses an opinion)

An imperative sentence gives a command or makes a request. It usually ends with a period but can, under certain circumstances, end with an exclamation point.

Examples of this sentence type:

“Please sit down.”

“I need you to sit down now!”

An interrogative sentence asks a question. This type of sentence often begins with who, what, where, when, why, how, or do, and it ends with a question mark.

Examples of this sentence type:

“When are you going to turn in your writing assignment?”
“Do you know what the weather will be tomorrow?”

An **exclamatory sentence** is a sentence that expresses great emotion such as excitement, surprise, happiness and anger, and ends with an exclamation point.

**Examples of this sentence type:**

“It is too dangerous to climb that mountain!”

“I got an A on my book report!”

Learning about the different types of sentences and punctuation will help students become better writers by enabling them to convey various types of information and emotion in their writing.

**Sentence Types and “Mood”**

While using certain sentence types, a writer automatically creates *mood* for the reader. Remember that mood is created through an author’s *tone* and *style of writing*—the specific choice of diction and syntax or choice of words and structure.

**For Example - Take the subject of homework, which already gives a mood for most readers:**

“Turn your homework in tomorrow.” [An imperative sentence]

“Did you turn your homework in?” [An interrogative sentence]

“Doing homework helps develop a routine.” A declarative sentence]

“I don’t like doing homework!” [An exclamatory sentence]

**ALL of these sentences have different meanings and different feelings associated with them for the person reading the sentence (mood.)**