

## **DENOTATION/CONNOTATION EXERCISE**

**I.** For each pair of words and a phrase, list the one that is positive in the "Positive Connotation" (P) category, the one that is negative in the "Negative Connotation" (N) category, and the phrase that is a more neutral definition for both words in the "Denotation" (D) 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\_\_\_\_

|     | <i><b>Positive Connotation</b></i> | <i><b>Denotation</b></i> | <i><b>Negative Connotation</b></i> |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 2.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 3.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 4.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 5.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 6.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 7.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 8.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 9.  |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 10. |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 11. |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 12. |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 13. |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 14. |                                    |                          |                                    |
| 15. |                                    |                          |                                    |