Word Feeling Sort

Notice the feeling a word adds.

7.L.V.3.c "Distinguish between the connotations of words that share a similar denotation (e.g., confident, assertive, egotistic, pompous, smug). (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSITIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a positive connotation makes a person or idea sound favorable. It can show approval or respect.

resourceful

NEGATIVE CONNOTATION

A word with a negative connotation makes a person or idea sound unfavorable. It can suggest criticism or disapproval.

sneaky

1 SORT

8 items

Circle POSITIVE or NEGATIVE for each word, then choose two words and explain which feeling each word carries.

1.	self-assured	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
2.	poised	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
3.	arrogant	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
4.	assertive	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
5.	smug	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
6.	egotistic	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
7.	confident	POSITIVE NEGATIVE
8.	pompous	POSITIVE NEGATIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word with a positive connotation and one new word with a negative connotation.

POSITIVE _____

NEGATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same person. Use and underline a positive-connotation word in one sentence and a negative-connotation word in the other.

ANSWER KEY # Word Feeling Sort

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	self-assured	**POSITIVE**	It suggests calm, favorable confidence.
2	poised	**POSITIVE**	It suggests composed confidence.
3	arrogant	**NEGATIVE**	It suggests an unpleasant belief that one is better than others.
4	assertive	**POSITIVE**	It suggests confident, respectful expression of ideas.
5	smug	**NEGATIVE**	It suggests annoying self-satisfaction.
6	egotistic	**NEGATIVE**	It suggests excessive concern with oneself.
7	confident	**POSITIVE**	It suggests a favorable belief in one's abilities.
8	pompous	**NEGATIVE**	It suggests an exaggerated sense of importance.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **POSITIVE**: capable
- **NEGATIVE**: conceited

Challenge: Maya sounded _self-assured_ when she shared her plan. Maya seemed _boastful_ when she said no one else had useful ideas.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a favorable or unfavorable feeling and connect it to the chosen word. For Part 3, accept accurate words that fit the assigned connotation.