Connotation/Denotation #1

☙Organize the following words from each list into a group of words with positive connotations and a list with negative connotations. Each word must be used in one of the two lists.

1. tight, miserly, frugal, economical, careful, penurious, thrifty, budget-minded, prudent, penny-pinching

2. dislike, resent, lament, hate, scorn, disapprove, decry, deplore, oppose, regret

3. odd, curious, off-the-wall, outlandish, weird, singular, bizarre, unusual, strange extraordinary, remarkable, eerie, noteworthy

☙Often two words mean roughly the same thing, except that one has an unfavorable, the other, a favorable, connotation. Thus, although you may like to think of yourself as an *idealist*, people who do not sympathize with your attitudes might call you a *dreamer*. For the following pairs of terms, write short explanations of why you might like to be described by one term but not the other.

1. self-confident/conceited

2. assertive/pushy

3. firm/stubborn

4. hard-working/workaholic

5. flexible/indecisive

6. casual/sloppy

7. mature/old

For each word listed, give a word of similar meaning (same denotation) that expresses your approval and one that expresses your disapproval (using connotative meanings).

	Neutral Term	Approval	Disapproval
1.	to teach		
2.	thin		
3.	fussy		
4.	candid		
5.	stern		
6.	credulous		
7.	to fail (a course in school)		

In each of the following sentences you will find a word or phrase with the wrong connotation given the level of the diction in the sentence. Decide which word/phrase is inappropriate and substitute a better, more appropriate word/phrase for it.

1. With the U.S. falling behind other industrialized countries, many college people—from chancellors to freshman—consider extracurricular activities a real bummer.

2. Others, of course, regard such entertainments as hot stuff, cultural and educational, and a vital element in college life.

3. Higher education should have the guts and the idealism to widen and ennoble life.

4. Our is an age of science, and one of the bases of science is mathematics, which, regrettably, some students think is a real drag.

5. Charles Dickens created characters from the lowest levels of the English-speaking world, but he made these scumbags appear likeable because he revealed their universal humanity.

6. Dickens from his youth saw life from just above the starvation level and, though later he earned megabucks and international hoopla, all his characters were based on his poverty-stricken childhood.