Examine the following list of words. Which words sound positive to you? Negative?

* Slender
* Bony
* Soldier
* Freedom fighter
* Terrorist

**Denotation and Connotation: Your Word Choice Matters!**

**Denotation:** the dictionary definition of a word

**Connotation:** the feelings and associations that a word evokes

Categorize the following words as positive, neutral or negative.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Positive | Neutral | Negative |
| 1. | house, dump, home | *home* | *house* | *dump* |
| 2. | fragrance, stench, smell |  |  |  |
| 3. | venerable, old, decrepit |  |  |  |
| 4. | babble, talk, chat |  |  |  |
| 5. | beast, animal, pet |  |  |  |