

Using SOAPSTONE to Analyze a Work

- S** Subject: What topic does the speaker address? Look at the title of the document as a starting point. Why is this subject significant/relevant/urgent? Use examples from the work to defend your ideas.
- O** Occasion: What event inspired this piece of writing? Where is this document/article/work being presented? What do you know about this occasion and how is it significant?
- A** Audience: What group of people is this intended for? Hostile or friendly? Describe the audience and what you know about them or what you can infer about them.
- P** Purpose: What is the message the speaker is trying to convey? What is the argument? What is the main purpose for writing: Entertain, Enlighten, Persuade or Inform How do you know? List examples.
- S** Speaker: Who is the speaker in the speech/article/text? What do you know about him/her? Why is this an appropriate choice given the SOAP above?

Tone What is the tone, or the author's attitude, toward his subject?

Tone is defined as the writer or speaker's attitude toward the subject and the audience. Here is a short list of simple but helpful "tone words":

Angry	Sad	Sentimental	Afraid
Sharp	Cold	Fanciful	Detached
Upset	Urgent	Complimentary	Contemptuous
Silly	Joking	Condescending	Happy
Boring	Poignant	Sympathetic	Confused
Apologetic	Hollow	Childish	Humorous
Joyful	Peaceful	Horrific	Allusive
Mocking	Sarcastic	Sweet	Objective
Nostalgic	Vexed	Vibrant	enthusiastic
Tired	Frivolous	Irrelevant	Bitter
Audacious	Benevolent	Dreamy	Shocking
Seductive	Restrained	Somber	Candid
Proud	Giddy	Pitiful	Dramatic
Provocative	moralistic	mournful	Sentimental