

# SOAPSTone

## Critical Reading/ Listening for Analysis



When reading and analyzing text and speeches, it is important that you as a reader have a strategy for analysis. In order to understand the deeper meanings behind words, written or spoken, you should be able to summarize the content, discuss what you've read or heard, form opinions and develop the ability to argue an issue. Learning to make meaning from what can be confusing material is a skill that can be learned by using a plan called SOAPSTone.

**S**peaker

**O**ccasion

**A**udience

**P**urpose

**S**ubject

**T**one

**Who is the SPEAKER?** *This is the voice that tells the story.* In fiction, this is the narrator. In non-fiction this may be the author and/or people interviewed and quoted in the article. In a speech, this is usually the person giving the speech, although sometimes speeches are recited that originally belonged to someone else.

**What is the OCCASION?** *This is the time and place of the story; the context that encouraged the writing to happen.* There are two occasions. **The larger occasion:** ideas and emotions around a bigger issue (in fiction, this is sometimes symbolic). And the **immediate occasion:** an event or situation that can trigger a response.

**Who is the AUDIENCE?** *This is the group of readers to whom the story is directed.* It may be one person, a small group, or a large group.

**What is the PURPOSE?** *This is the reason behind the writing.* The readers should ask themselves, "What does the speaker want the audience to think or do as a result of reading this?"

**What is the SUBJECT?** *This is the general topic, content and ideas that are contained in the writing/text.* The reader should be able to state the subject in a few words or a phrase or two.

**What is the TONE?** *This is the attitude of the author.* This helps give meaning through tone of voice.

## SOAPSTone Plan

### Critical Reading/ Listening for Analysis

Current Story/Article/ Speech Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker(s) Who is the speaker? What is their point of view?	
Occasion What is the event/situation? Ideas/emotions?	
Audience Who is the speaker writing to?	
Purpose What does the speaker want the audience to think?	

<p><b>Subject</b> What is the topic of the article?</p>	
<p><b>Tone</b> What is the attitude of the speaker(s)?</p>	

Questions for analysis: