

# 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: Equal Rights for Women

<p><b>Speaker(s)</b> Who is the speaker? What is their point of view?</p>	<p>Shirley Chisholm, Af. Am. 1st black congresswoman, took a stand for what she believed in and went after her dreams of making an influence. Women should have just as many rights as men (alluded to rights of blacks too)</p>
<p><b>Occasion</b> What is the event/situation? Ideas/emotions?</p>	<p>At the U.S. House of Rep, May 21 1969. In a time when women are not given equal rights Emotions: Women, like Chisholm, are angry at differentiated rights</p>
<p><b>Audience</b> Who is the speaker writing to?</p>	<p>Speaks to the U.S. House of Representatives (congress; lawmakers). Those who can make legal change.</p>
<p><b>Purpose</b> What does the speaker want the audience to think?</p>	<p>Women should be given equal rights, women are capable of anything (don't need to be babied), you can still make a stand even if people are opposed to you. Stereotypes of women can be harmful.</p>

<p><b>Subject</b> What is the topic of the article?</p>	<p>Equal rights for women</p>
<p><b>Tone</b> What is the attitude of the speaker(s)?</p>	<p>Confident, strong, passionate, demanding, angry, aggravated, powerful, motivational (mood), motivated (tone)</p>

Questions for analysis: