

SOAPS Tone

Response Writing Guide

Who is the **Speaker**?

Who is the speaker who produced this piece? What is their background, and why are they making the points they are making? Is there a bias in what was written? You must be able to cite evidence from the text that supports your answer. **“Prove” your answer based on the text.**

What is the **Occasion**?

In other words, **what is the time and place of this piece?** What motivated the author to write this piece? How do you know from the text? What event led to its publication or development?

Who is the **Audience**?

What group of people is this aimed at, or who is meant to read this? The audience may be one person, a small group or a large group; it may be a certain person or a certain people. What assumptions can you make about the audience? Is it a mixed racial/sex group? What social class? What political party? Who was the document created for and how do you know? Are there any words or phrases that are unusual or different? Does the speaker use language meant to appeal to a certain audience? Does the speaker evoke God? Nation? Liberty? History? Hell? How do you know? Why does the speaker use the language he/she does?

What is the **Purpose**?

What is the reason behind writing this? In what ways does the speaker convey this message? How would you perceive the speaker giving this speech? What is the document saying? What is the emotional state of the speaker? How is the speaker trying to spark a reaction in the audience? How is the document supposed to make you feel?

What is the **Subject**?

What is this about? What is the general topic, and what are the ideas contained in the text? How do you know this? How has the subject been selected and presented?

What is the **Tone**?

What is the attitude of the speaker? **What is the attitude of the speaker toward the subject/character: Is it serious, humorous, sarcastic, ironic, satirical, tongue-in-cheek, solemn, or mournful, or is it objective?** How do you know? Where in the text does it support your answer?