Soapstone Document Analysis

By using SOAPSTONE as the basis for your analysis, you will discover that an essay, an article, a song, a story is carefully structured, creating parameters within which you must work in order to determine meaning. Certainly, there is room for different viewpoints because each of you brings a unique perspective to the piece. **But your conclusions must be supported by the details of the text.**

**S Who is the Speaker?**

The voice which tells the story. When students approach a document, they sometimes believe that the author and the speaker of the piece are the same. They fail to realize that the author may choose to write from any number of different points of view. In fact, the method of narration and the character of the speaker may be crucial to an understanding of the work.

**O What is the Occasion?**

The time and place of the piece; the current situation. It is particularly important that you understand the context that encouraged the writing to happen. What led to the development of the document? What influences forced the author to write it?

**A What is the Audience?**

The group of readers to whom this piece is directed. The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group; it may be a certain person or a certain people.

**P What is the Purpose?**

The reason behind the text. You need to consider this question carefully. What is the argument or logic behind the document?

* To inform
* To motivate (primary source)
* To justify
* To measure
* To persuade (secondary source)

**S What is the Subject?**

The general topic, content, and ideas contained in the text. You should be able to state the subject in a few words or a short phrase.

**-TONE**

What is the authors tone? How is the author perceived by the audience? What is the author’s mood? What is the authors’ point-of-view?

Soapstone-Whole Group

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker |  |
| Occasion |  |
| Audience |  |
| Purpose |  |
| Subject |  |
| Tone |  |

Soapstone: Group

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker |  |
| Occasion |  |
| Audience |  |
| Purpose |  |
| Subject |  |
| Tone |  |

Soapstone-Individual

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker |  |
| Occasion |  |
| Audience |  |
| Purpose |  |
| Subject |  |
| Tone |  |