

SOAPSTone Analysis Form

<u>Speaker</u>	<p>Who is the Speaker? The voice that tells the story. <i>Non-Fiction</i> – the author/speaker and any background information that might bear upon his/her text. <i>Fiction</i> – the narrator, <u>not the author</u>, and any implied traits or characteristics that might influence the text.</p> <p><i>Students should go beyond merely identifying the Speaker by name (occasionally, none will be given). They should be able to apply outside knowledge to Speaker, or infer traits from the text itself.</i></p>
<u>Occasion</u>	<p>What is the Occasion? The time and the place of the piece; the context that encouraged the writing to happen. <i>Non-Fiction</i> – the event that triggered the response <i>Fiction</i> – the primary, specific event being discussed (summary)</p> <p><i>Students should contextualize historical events or the “environment of ideas” that led to a text being produced. Students should also be able to summarize the events in a few words or phrases.</i></p>
<u>Audience</u>	<p>Who is the Audience? The group of readers/listeners to whom a piece is directed. <i>Non-Fiction and Fiction</i> – the specific person, small group, or larger group a piece is aimed at</p> <p><i>There may be multiple audiences, and the audience(s) may need to be discovered through student inference of the level of discourse in the text, the diction, the connotation of chosen words, and the traits of the Speaker.</i></p>
<u>Purpose</u>	<p>What is the Purpose? The reason behind the text? <i>Non-Fiction</i> – what the Speaker wants the Audience to think or do as a result of reading/listening to the piece <i>Fiction</i> – the larger “point” being examined in the piece; the “theme” presented</p> <p><i>Students should apply social, cultural, historical, etc. perspectives to a text to discover what the author/Speaker is attempting to reveal about those perspectives. They should be able to examine the logic of the argument and/or the themes and interpretations being presented.</i></p>
<u>Subject</u>	<p>What is the Subject? The general topic, content, and ideas contained in the text. <i>Non-Fiction and Fiction</i> – the larger context of the text (related to Occasion and Purpose)</p> <p><i>Students should go beyond the immediate occasion to discover the larger context or issue that eventually led to the triggering Occasion. This should be stated in a few words or a phrase.</i></p>
<u>Tone</u>	<p>What is the Tone? The attitude of the author/Speaker. <i>Non-Fiction</i> – the meaning imparted by the author that goes beyond the literal; how the author feels about the subject <i>Fiction</i> – same as above, though it might require a distinction between author and narrator</p> <p><i>Students should analyze diction, syntax, connotation, and imagery to determine the attitude being presented.</i></p>

*SOAPSTone can be used to begin discussions of literature, as reading checks, and/or in journals.
 Students can use SOAPSTones to compare and contrast similar texts or types of texts.
 SOAPSTones are especially well-suited to helping students determine topics for literary criticism.*

SOAPSTone**Analysis****Textual Support**

Speaker: What does the reader know about the writer?

Occasion: What are the circumstances surrounding this text?

Audience: Who is the target audience?

Purpose: Why did the author write this text?

Subject: What is the topic?

Tone: What is the author's tone or attitude?