**SOAPSTone**

*ONE approach to text analysis. Keep in mind that while this is a formula, your analysis should not be “formulaic.”*

**Who is the Speaker?** Consider the speaker’s biographical information and how that might influence the text: epoch, demographics, life experiences, cultural/political time in which he/she wrote.

**What is the Occasion?**  Consider the concrete and abstract environment of the author, text and reader. Contemplate the rhetorical situation of the speaker(s). What is his or her social/political/aesthetic environment? What is the particular situation to which he or she is responding?

**Who is the Audience?** Consider to whom the poem is addressed. Contemplate the person or group to whom the piece is directed. What impact does this have on the text? How would the text have been different if the audience changed?

**What is the Purpose?** Consider why the text was written. What purpose does the text serve? What does the writer hope to convince the audience to believe, feel, or do. What type of appeals and rhetorical devices does he or she use to achieve this purpose?

**What is the Subject?** Consider the author’s thesis statement. What was said? What is the literal content of the text?

**What is the Tone?** Consider the speaker’s attitude toward the subject. What happened in the text to lead you to that conclusion? Contemplate how the author would respond to this question, “How do you feel about the subject?” Remember that tone is mostly easily identified using powerful adjective and is typically established through features like diction, syntax, figurative language.

Put more simply:

Speaker: What kind of person is the speaker? What aspects of his/her life influences the writing of this piece?

Occasion: In what environment was the piece written? What cultural events are important during the time of the writing and to the author?

Audience: At whom is the text aimed? Who is targeted in the satire? What group of people does the author want to influence?

Purpose: Why was the text written? What does the author hope to achieve by writing this piece?

Subject = What is the piece about? What ideas are being discussed? What is the content?

Tone: What was the specific tone of the piece? Yes, it was probably sarcastic, but what else? Biting? Playful? Inspirational?

Resources for further exploration/explanation:  
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/preap/teachers_corner/45200.html>

Student name: Writing Title:

Author: Year published:

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| **SOAPSTone** | **My Analysis** | **Words from text** |
| **Who is the Speaker?** Consider the speaker’s biographical information and how that might influence the text: epoch, demographics, life experiences, cultural/political time in which he/she wrote. What kind of person is the speaker? What aspects of his/her life influences the writing of this piece? |  |  |
| **What is the Occasion?**  Consider the concrete and abstract environment of the author, text and reader. Contemplate the rhetorical situation of the speaker(s). What is his or her social/political environment? What is the particular situation to which he or she is responding? In what environment was the piece written? |  |  |
| **Who is the Audience?** Consider to whom the poem is addressed. Contemplate the person or group to whom the piece is directed. What impact does this have on the text? How would the text have been different is the audience changed? At whom is the text aimed? Who is targeted in the satire? What group of people does the author want to influence? |  |  |
| **What is the Purpose?** Consider why the text was written. What purpose does the text serve? What does the writer hope to convince the audience to believe, feel, or do. What type of appeals and rhetorical devices does he or she use to achieve this purpose? What does the author hope to achieve by writing this piece? |  |  |
| **What is the Subject?** Consider the author’s thesis statement. What was said? What is the literal content of the text? What is the piece about? What ideas are being discussed? What is the content? |  |  |
| **What is the Tone?** Consider the speaker’s attitude toward the subject. What happened in the text to lead you to that conclusion? Contemplate how the author would respond to this question, “How do you feel about the subject?” Remember that tone is mostly easily identified using powerful adjectives. |  |  |
| **Theme**  What is the poem/poet saying about the human condition? Is it sternly/caringly pedantic or is it objectively expository? What idea does the poet want the reader to take away from the poem? Keep “the path in mind”: Author 🡺 Text 🡺 Reader. Theme is usually a complete sentence, the author’s message and universal. |  |  |

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| **Learning Target** | **4.0** | **3.0** | **2.0** | **1.0** |
| Analyze the **author’s craft of narratives, informational and persuasive texts.** | **I can insightfully**  **explain** **all examples**  of author’s craft  **accurately beyond**  **teacher’s expectations.** | **I can plainly explain**  **several examples** of  author’s craft **relatively** **accurately and consistently.** | **I can mention some**  **examples** of author’s craft  **somewhat** **accurately and somewhat consistently.** | **I can partially identify**  **a few examples** of  author’s craft with  **some inaccuracies & teacher assistance.** |