

SOAPStone Graphic Organizer for Rhetorical Analysis

Citing Evidence in Persuasive Text

CLOSE READING			How do you know? Cite specific evidence in the text.
S	Who is the Speaker ?	• Who is the speaker? • Identify the speaker's age, gender, class, and education. • The voice tells the story. Whose voice is being heard within the text? • What can you tell or what do you know about the speaker that helps you understand the point of view expressed?	
O	What is the Occasion ?	• What is the time and place of the piece? What is the current situation (that prompted the writing)? • Is this a political event, a celebration, an observation, a critique, or ...? • Identify the context of the text.	
A	Who is the Audience ?	• Who are the readers to whom this piece is directed? It may be one person or a specific group. • Does the speaker specify an audience? • What assumptions exist in the text about the intended audience?	
P	What is the Purpose ?	• What is the purpose behind the text? Why did the author write it? What is his goal? (To find the purpose, ask, "What did the author want his audience to think or do as a result of reading this text?") • What is the message? • How does the speaker convey this message?	
S	What is the Subject ?	• What topic, content, and ideas are included in the text? • State the subject in a few words or a short phrase. • Is there more than one subject? • How does the author present the subject? Does he introduce it immediately or do you, the reader, have to make an inference?	
TONE	TONE What is the Tone?	• What is the attitude of the author? • Is the author emotional, objective, neutral, or biased about this topic? • What types of details "tell" the author's feelings about the topic? • What types of diction (choice of words), syntax (sentence structure), and imagery (metaphors, similes, and other types of figurative language) help reflect the tone? • How would you read the passage aloud if you were the author?	