

The College Board's **SOAPSTONE Reading Strategy**

<p>Speaker</p>	<p>The voice that tells the story. The author and the speaker are NOT necessarily the same. An author may choose to tell the story from any number of different points of view. In non-fiction consider important facts about speaker that will help assess his/her point of view / position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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?
<p>Occasion</p>	<p>The time and place of the piece; the context that encouraged the writing to happen. Writing does not occur in a vacuum. There is the larger occasion: an environment of ideas and emotions that swirl around a broad issue. Then there is the immediate occasion: an event or situation that catches the writer's attention and triggers a response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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.
<p>Audience</p>	<p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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>Purpose</p>	<p>The reason behind the text. Consider the purpose of the text in order to examine the argument and its logic. You should ask yourself, “What does the speaker want the audience to think or do as a result of reading this text?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the purpose behind the text? Why did the author write it? What is his/her 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?
<p>Subject</p>	<p>The general topic, content, and ideas contained in the text. You should be able to state the subject in a few words or a phrase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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/she introduce it immediately or do you, the reader, have to make an inference?
<p>Tone</p>	<p>The attitude of the author. The spoken word can convey the speaker's attitude, and, thus, help to impart meaning, through tone of voice. With the written work, it is tone that extends meaning beyond the literal. Tone can be determined by examining the author's diction (choice of words), syntax (sentence construction), and imagery (vivid descriptions that appeal to the senses).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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?