SOAPSTone

An Informational Text
Reading Strategy

What is SOAPSTone?

- S - Speaker

- O - Occasion

- A - Audience

- P - Purpose

- S - Subject

- Tone

Speaker

- What does the reader know about the writer/speaker?

- The speaker should be identified by name *and* by role or title e.g. The speaker is Carl Hiaasen, a *Miami Herald* columnist or The speaker is Martin Luther King, Civil Rights activist.

Occasion

- What are the circumstances surrounding this text?

- The occasion discusses what *caused* the author/speaker to write about or address the topic in the first place.

Audience

- Who is the author targeting as an audience?

- Do not a write 'everyone' or 'all readers'. Identify an audience; there can be more than one right answer.

Purpose

- **Why** did the author write this text?

- **What** *effect* does the author intend the text to have?

- For example, does he/she intend to threaten, entertain, inspire, motivate, etc.

Subject

- What is the topic, main idea or argument? Write this as a complete sentence.

- This can often be considered the thesis or 'claim' of the passage. For example, *'Facebook is only harmful if you use it carelessly.'*

Tone

- Tone identifies the author's attitude towards the subject. A close examination of the word choice (diction), imagery and detail help to reveal the author's attitude or tone. For example, 'The author shows contempt for athletes.'

- We will draw up a list containing a variety of tone words to give you the necessary vocabulary to describe this section