

## Tools for Analysis: S.O.A.P.S.Tone

### Speaker:

- Is there someone identified as the speaker?
- Can you make some assumptions about this person?
  - What social class does the author come from?
  - What political bias can be inferred?
  - What gender is the speaker?
- *P.S.* Be sure to understand the difference, if any, between **author** and **speaker** in the passage.

### Occasion:

- Immediate occasion
  - What may have prompted the author/speaker to write this piece?
  - What event led to its publication or development?
- Larger occasion
  - The bigger idea behind the piece; the broad issue
  - The center of ideas and emotions in the work

### Audience:

- Does the speaker identify an audience?
- What assumptions can you make about the audience? Is it mixed in terms of race, politics, gender, social class, religion, etc.?
- Does the speaker use language that is specific for a unique audience?
- Does the speaker evoke Nation? Liberty? God? History? Hell?
- Does the speaker allude to any particular time in history such as ancient times? Industrial Revolution? World Wars? Vietnam?

### Purpose:

- What is the speaker's purpose?
- In what ways does the author convey this message?
- How is the speaker trying to spark a reaction in the audience?
- How is this document supposed to make you feel?

### Subject:

- What is the subject of the piece? How do you know this?
- How has the author presented this subject?

### Tone:

- What seems to be the emotional state of the speaker?
- What is the speaker's or author's attitude toward the subject?
- What words or phrases reveal the speaker's tone?
- How else does the writer reveal that attitude? (i.e. images, metaphorical language, sentence structure)