**SOAPStone Graphic Organizer for Rhetorical Analysis**

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|  | **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?
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| **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.
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| **A**Who is the **Audience**? | * Who are the readers to whom this piece is directed? It may be one persona or a specific group.
* Does the speaker specify an **audience**?
* What assumptions exist in the text about the intended audience?
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| **P**What is the **Purpose**? | * 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 what his/her audience to think or do as a result of reading this text?”)
* What is the **message**?
* **How does the speaker convey this message?**
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| **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/she introduce it immediately or do you, the reader, have to make an **inference**?
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| **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 **diction** (choice of words), **syntax** (sentence structure), **figurative language** (metaphors, similes, etc.), and **rhetorical appeals** help reflect this **tone**?
* How would you **read** the passage **aloud** if you were the author?
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