**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? |  |
| **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 persona 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/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?** |  |
| **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**? |  |
| **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? |  |