

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

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>The voice that tells the story.</b> The author and the speaker are NOT necessarily the same. An author may choose to tell the story from any number of different <b>points of view</b> . In non-fiction consider important facts about speaker that will help assess his/her point of view / position.
<b>Occasion</b>	<b>The time and place of the piece; the context that encouraged the writing to happen.</b> Writing does not occur in a vacuum. There is the <b>larger occasion</b> : an environment of ideas and emotions that swirl around a broad issue. Then there is the <b>immediate occasion</b> : an event or situation that catches the writer's attention and triggers a response.
<b>Audience</b>	<b>The group of readers to whom this piece is directed.</b> The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group; it may be a certain person or a certain people.
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>The reason behind the text.</b> Consider the purpose of the text in order to examine the argument and its logic. You should ask yourself, <b>"What does the speaker want the audience to think or do as a result of reading this text?"</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>The general topic, content, and ideas contained in the text.</b> You should be able to state the subject in a few words or a phrase.
<b>Tone</b>	<b>The attitude of the author.</b> 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 <b>diction</b> (choice of words), <b>syntax</b> (sentence construction), and <b>imagery</b> (vivid descriptions that appeal to the senses).

**1876 - Harper's Weekly**  
**Primary Source Document**

Of the present population, which is variously estimated, and at the last census was 111,000, nine-tenths are Mexicans, Indians, "greasers," and other non-English speaking people. About one tenth, or one-eleventh part of the population speak the English language, the nine-tenths are under the strictest Roman Catholic supervision.... The proposition of the admission of New Mexico as a State is, that such a population, in such a civilization, of industries, and intelligence, and with such forbidding prospects of speedy improvement or increase--a community almost without the characteristic and indispensable qualities of an American State--shall have a representation in the national Senate as large as New York, and in the House shall be equal to Delaware. It is virtually an ignorant foreign community under the influence of the Roman Church, and neither for the advantage of the Union nor for its own benefit can such an addition to the family of American States be urged. There are objections to a Territorial government, but in this case the Territorial supervision supplies encouragement to the spirit of intelligent progress by making the national authority finally supreme.

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