

SOAPSTone Analysis for Primary Source Documents

- S:** What is the **subject** of the piece? What are the general topic/s and/or idea/s contained in the piece?
- O:** What is the **occasion**? What are the time, place, and setting of the piece?
- A:** Who is the **audience**? To whom is this document directed?
- P:** What is the **purpose** or reason the document was written?
- S:** Who is the **speaker**? Who is the voice that tells the story?
- T:** What is the **tone** of the piece? What emotional or attitudinal characteristics are present in the document?

There are three types of questions that students can address when they are analyzing any type of written material.

Level One Questions

Level One Questions can be answered directly from facts contained in the text or through information easily accessible in other sources.

Level Two Questions

Level Two Questions are textually implicit, requiring analysis and interpretation of specific aspects of the text.

Level Three Questions

Level three questions are more open-ended and go beyond the text. They are intended to provoke a discussion.