



Name: _____ Date: _____



SOAPSTONE

Overview:

"Too often students approach a text with no particular plan. To novice readers, the text contains a series of facts that they discover and report to the teacher....Thus, students typically respond by repeating the details of the piece to show they know what it says...Each piece of reading should give students the opportunity to practice and develop the intellectual skills by which they make meaning from material..."

College Board, Interdisciplinary Strategies for Social Studies, 2004

The SOAPSTONE strategy as introduced in the College Board's "Interdisciplinary Strategies for Social Studies" training is an expanded version of SOAPS. The additional element, "tone," reflects the attitude of the author, which includes his/her perspective, point of view, and even bias.

Materials Needed:

SOAPSTONE Guide

Reading or primary source material

Procedure:

As students examine their assigned text or source, ask them to respond to the following in complete sentences or short phrases, as the instructor desires. This initial analysis is useful as an important stepping stone toward development of an essay which requires analysis of multiple sources in order to address a given prompt. However, it is just as useful to initiate students to understanding common elements of all primary sources, whether they be documents, illustrations, photographs, sound recordings, posters, maps, graphs, etc.

SOAPSTONE



Who is the <u>Speaker</u> ?	• The voice that is speaking. Identification of the historical person (or group of people) who created the primary source. • What do we know about this historic or contemporary person? • What role does he play in an historic event?
What is the <u>Occasion</u> ?	• What is the time and place? The context in which the primary source was created? • What is the <i>Geographic</i> and <i>Historic</i> intersection at which this source was produced?
Who is the <u>Audience</u> ?	• The readers to whom this document is directed • The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group; it may be a certain person or a certain people.
What is the <u>Purpose</u> ?	• What is the reason behind the text; • Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?
What is the <u>Subject</u> ?	• What is the general topic, content, or idea contained in the text? • Summarize in a few words or phrase.
What is the <u>Tone</u> ?	• What is the attitude expressed by the speaker? • Examine the choice of words, emotions expressed, imagery used to determine the speaker's attitude.