S.O.A.P.S.Tone



Speaker

- Who is the original author of this source?
- What is the author's background?
- What types of assumptions or beliefs might the author of the source hold that might influence his or her viewpoint?

Occasion

- When and where was this source produced, under what circumstances?
- What was happening in this place and time that might influence the account?
- Is this piece created in reaction to some specific event or occurrence?

Audience

- For whom was the source created, and how might this affect the reliability of the source?
- Is the document more of a private recollection or communication, or more of a public one? Would the author have related a different account if it were a more public, or more private account?

Purpose

- Why was this source produced at the time that it was produced?
- Did the author hope to persuade, inform, or justify him or herself or actions taken? (Could be all these and more!)
- What motivated the author to say what he or she said here? Was this notably brave, original, or insightful, or a more conventional take on events?

Subject

- What is being said here? To what extent can we take it at "face value?" How much do we need to "read between the lines?"
- What did you learn that helps you better understand the period (or answer the question, in the case of an essay)?
- Is there something that the author is leaving out, intentionally or unintentionally?
- To what extent does this account corroborate, or match up with other sources, or anything you already know about this period?

Tone

- How is this being said?
- What specific words or phrases stand out to demonstrate the tone of the author?
 (Are there any "red flag" or "loaded" words?)
- Why would they adopt the tone that the do? To what extent does this help or detract from their intention?

S.O.A.P.S.Tone



Doc	Speaker	Occasion	Audience	Purpose	Subject	Tone
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						