

Document Analysis

Adapted from Building Success

What to look for:

SOAPS + TBR

How to find it:

1. **Speaker:** Is there someone identified as the speaker? Can you make some assumptions about this person? What class do they come from? What political party? A gender?
2. **Occasion:** What prompted the author to write this piece? What event led to its publication or development?
3. **Audience:** Does the speaker identify an audience? What assumptions can you make about the audience? Is it a mixed racial/sex group? What social class? Political party? Who was the document created for? Are there any words or phrases that are unusual or different? Does the speaker use language that is specific for a unique audience? Does the speaker evoke God? Nation? Liberty? History? Hell? Does the speaker allude to classical themes: the Fates, the Classics, Pericles, Caesar? Why is the speaker using this type of language?
4. **Purpose:** What is the speaker's purpose? In what ways does he convey this message? How would you perceive the speaker giving this speech? What is the document saying? What is the emotional state of the speaker? How is the speaker trying to spark a reaction in the audience? What words or phrases show the speaker's tone? How is the document supposed to make you feel?
5. **Subject:** What is the subject of the piece? How do you know this? How has the subject been selected and presented by the author?
6. **Time:** Is there a date given for the document in the title or reference? Does the speaker refer to another time? What assumptions can you make based on what the speaker is saying? When was the document created?
7. **Background:** What information do you need to understand this document? What historical background is necessary to fully understand this document? Does the pertinent information only come from the most recent history or from distant history?
8. **Relationships:** What documents, that you know or have read, can be compared to this one? How?