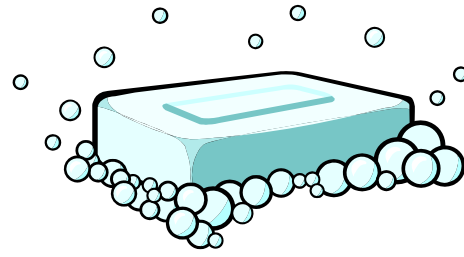# SOAPS

It is important that students have a strategy for analyzing any text. The acronym SOAPS (Subject, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Speaker) guides students in analytical reading or primary sources…

SOAPS	
Who is the **Speaker?**	• **Identification of the historical person (or group of people) who created the primary source.** • Include what the student knows about this person's role in history or current events.
What is the **Occasion?**	• **The time and place; the current situation.** • It is particularly important that students understand the context that encouraged the primary source to be created.
Who is the **Audience?**	• **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 **Purpose?**	• **The reason behind the text;** • Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?
What is the **Subject?**	• **What is the document about?** • What event of historic importance does the document reveal details about?