S — What is the SUBJECT?

What is the main topic of discussion? Describe in 2-3 words the topic of the piece.

O — What is the OCCASION?

On what occasion is this being written? What hisorical context is there? Is there a motive for the writing? What other information is relevant to this writing?

A — Who is the AUDIENCE?

To whom or for whom is this being written? Audience helps determine diction and style.

P — What is the PURPOSE?

Why is this being written? Is it to persuade, to argue, to inform, to provide humor, or relate a persoal story? Is there some other purpose?

S — Who is the SPEAKER?

What are the speaker's credentials or reliability (ethos)? Does he or she have something to say that adds relevant information to the subject?

S O A P S is a strategy that can be used for either interpreting a text or as a guide for writing a text. Based on Aristotle's triangle, it is used to be sure that all the bases are covered when writing and all the main elements are taken into account when interpreting a text.

Helpful guidelines for **READING:**
What is the speaker's assertion/question?
What are the pros and cons?

Helpful guidelines for **WRITING:**
What is your assertion (position)?
What are your reasons and support?
How can you target your audience?

Some **RHETORICAL PATTERNS:**
It is true that ... however ... therefore
Admittedly ... on the other hand ... so
Of course ... nevertheless ... as a result
Obviously ... on the contrary ... finally