

# **E319 Summer Reading Assignment**

## ***How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith**

You need to have the assigned portions of this book read and have the following assignment completed by the first day of class. You will be reading more closely and writing about this book during the opening weeks of the semester, so it will be advantageous to have your own copy.

### **READING ASSIGNMENT**

From *How the Word is Passed*, read each of the following chapters.

- “Prologue”
- “Monticello Plantation”
- “Blandford Cemetery”
- “Epilogue”

We strongly encourage you to annotate/take notes as you read. The summer reading written assignments on the following pages are derived from the above reading selections.

***Not completing this assignment will put you severely behind. If there is even the slightest possibility that you will be taking AP, you need to complete this assignment!***

# Assignment Task 1:

## From a certain point of view

Much of your work with rhetorical analysis in E319 will be founded on your ability to identify the core components of communication and its surrounding context. To help you develop this skill, we will use the tool we call “SOAPSTone.” SOAPSTone breaks down each of the separate components related to understanding communication, and we are going to ask you to practice utilizing this tool in relation to *How the Word is Passed*.

Throughout the text, Smith encounters a wide array of individuals with varying perspectives. Select **THREE** of the following (at least one from each listed chapter), and use the SOAPSTone tables below to catalog the essential features of their interactions.

### Monticello Plantation:

David Thorson  
Donna and Grace  
Brandon Dillard  
Niya Bates

### Blandford Cemetery:

Ken  
Martha  
Paul C. Gramling  
Jeff  
Jason

SOAPStone Guiding Questions			Your Answers for Person 1
<b>S</b> Speaker	Who is the Speaker?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO is the speaker?</li> <li>• Identify what you can: speaker's age, gender, class, education, etc.</li> <li>• What can you tell or what do you know about the speaker that helps you understand the point of view expressed?</li> </ul>	
<b>O</b> Occasion	What is the Occasion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the time and place of the conversation? What situation prompted the interaction?</li> <li>• Is this a political event, a celebration, an observation, a tour, a critique, or something else?</li> </ul>	
<b>A</b> Audience	Who is the Audience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the significance of this speaker addressing Clint Smith?</li> <li>• Are there other potential/indirect audiences?</li> <li>• How might their message change if they were speaking to someone else? Why?</li> </ul>	
<b>P</b> Purpose	What is the Purpose?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the purpose of the speaker's statements? What are they trying to achieve? (To find the purpose, ask "What did the speaker want Clint Smith to think, feel, or do as a result of listening?")</li> <li>• How does the speaker convey this purpose?</li> </ul>	
<b>S</b> Subject	What is the Subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a few words or short phrases, what topics, content, and ideas are included in the statements?</li> <li>• How does the speaker <i>present</i> the subject? Do they introduce it immediately or do you and/or Smith have to infer it?</li> </ul>	
<b>TONE</b>	What is the tone?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the attitude of the speaker towards what they're talking about? (Is the speaker emotional, objective, neutral, or biased about this topic?)</li> <li>• What types of details "tell" the speaker's feelings about the topic?</li> </ul>	

SOAPStone Guiding Questions			Your Answers for Person 2
<b>S</b> Speaker	Who is the Speaker?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO is the speaker?</li> <li>• Identify what you can: speaker's age, gender, class, education, etc.</li> <li>• What can you tell or what do you know about the speaker that helps you understand the point of view expressed?</li> </ul>	
<b>O</b> Occasion	What is the Occasion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the time and place of the conversation? What situation prompted the interaction?</li> <li>• Is this a political event, a celebration, an observation, a tour, a critique, or something else?</li> </ul>	
<b>A</b> Audience	Who is the Audience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the significance of this speaker addressing Clint Smith?</li> <li>• Are there other potential/indirect audiences?</li> <li>• How might their message change if they were speaking to someone else? Why?</li> </ul>	
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<b>S</b> Subject	What is the Subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a few words or short phrases, what topics, content, and ideas are included in the statements?</li> <li>• How does the speaker <i>present</i> the subject? Do they introduce it immediately or do you and/or Smith have to infer it?</li> </ul>	
<b>TONE</b>	What is the <b>tone</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the attitude of the speaker towards what they're talking about? (Is the speaker emotional, objective, neutral, or biased about this topic?)</li> <li>• What types of details "tell" the speaker's feelings about the topic?</li> </ul>	

SOAPStone Guiding Questions			Your Answers for Person 3
<b>S</b> Speaker	Who is the Speaker?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO is the speaker?</li> <li>• Identify what you can: speaker's age, gender, class, education, etc.</li> <li>• What can you tell or what do you know about the speaker that helps you understand the point of view expressed?</li> </ul>	
<b>O</b> Occasion	What is the Occasion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the time and place of the conversation? What situation prompted the interaction?</li> <li>• Is this a political event, a celebration, an observation, a tour, a critique, or something else?</li> </ul>	
<b>A</b> Audience	Who is the Audience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the significance of this speaker addressing Clint Smith?</li> <li>• Are there other potential/indirect audiences?</li> <li>• How might their message change if they were speaking to someone else? Why?</li> </ul>	
<b>P</b> Purpose	What is the Purpose?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the purpose of the speaker's statements? What are they trying to achieve? (To find the purpose, ask "What did the speaker want Clint Smith to think, feel, or do as a result of listening?")</li> <li>• How does the speaker convey this purpose?</li> </ul>	
<b>S</b> Subject	What is the Subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a few words or short phrases, what topics, content, and ideas are included in the statements?</li> <li>• How does the speaker <i>present</i> the subject? Do they introduce it immediately or do you and/or Smith have to infer it?</li> </ul>	
<b>TONE</b>	What is the <b>tone</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the attitude of the speaker towards what they're talking about? (Is the speaker emotional, objective, neutral, or biased about this topic?)</li> <li>• What types of details "tell" the speaker's feelings about the topic?</li> </ul>	

## Assignment 2:

### Personal responses to self-selected quotes

After reading the assigned portions, rewrite any THREE statements from the text that you find worthy of some sort of response or reflection. Then compose a personal response that authentically reacts to each quotation you listed. There are a variety of different ways you can respond to someone else's statement. Your response may be similar to one of the following:

- Disagree - Talk about why they're wrong.
- Agree - Talk about why they're right.
- Add on to - If you have additional info on the matter, throw it in.
- Qualify - This is like sort of agreeing, BUT there is an important caveat you want to throw in.
- Get personal - Share a personal illustration from your own life, or the life of someone close to you.

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Statement 1:

Your response to statement 1:

Statement 2:

Your response to statement 2:

Statement 3:

Your response to statement 3:

## **Assignment 3:**

### **Author's Purpose**

Based on the assigned readings, what would you say is Clint Smith's ultimate purpose in composing this book? In a well-organized paragraph, include at least two separate pieces of evidence that support your claim about Smith's purpose.