

**SOAPStone: Letters of Wilbur Wright, October 4, 1903 and December 14, 1903**

As you read, look for these details...			How do you know? Cite specific evidence from the text.
<b>S</b>	Who is the <b>Speaker</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What can you tell or what do you know about the speaker that helps you understand the point of view expressed?</li> </ul>	Wilbur Wright is writing the letter, Wilbur sounds like an engineer when he says, "We have increased our time and length of flight (with glider) to 43 seconds, which is 1 and two thirds over last year's record and about three times the best of any one else." He also comes across as somewhat competitive.
<b>O</b>	What is the <b>Occasion</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the time and place of the text? What caused this text to be written? Identify the context of the text.</li> </ul>	These letters were written over 3 years after they first started experimenting with flight. These letters serve to update his father and family on the progress they are making toward human flight.
<b>A</b>	Who is the <b>Audience</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To whom is this text addressed? Does the speaker specify an audience? What does the author assume about the intended audience?</li> </ul>	We know the intended audience to be his father and family but they are not directly spoken to in the letters. We do know that it is informally written as he says, "We took to the hill and after tossing for first whack, which I won, got ready for the start."
<b>P</b>	What is the <b>Purpose</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What did the author want the audience to think or do as a result of reading this text? Why did the author write it?</li> <li>What is the message? How does the speaker convey this message?</li> </ul>	The purpose of both of these letters is to inform his family of the progress and successes they are making. In these letters Wilbur lets his father and family know that they have made more progress than anyone so far. He lets them know that they almost have completed their task when he states, "The strength of the machine is all right, the trouble in the front rudder being easily remedied. We anticipate no further trouble in landings."
<b>S</b>	What is the <b>Subject</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What topic, content, and ideas are included in the text?</li> <li>How does the author present the subject? Does he introduce it immediately or do you, the reader, have to make an inference?</li> </ul>	I had to infer that they had basically completed a working aircraft for humans. I know this because he stated that "We anticipate no further trouble in landings." This shows that he thinks they should continue to land safely and stay up for longer.
<b>TO NE</b>	What is the <b>Tone</b> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the author's attitude about the subject? Is the author emotional? Objective? Angry? How would you read the passage aloud if you were the author?</li> <li>What details "tell" the author's feelings about the topic? What words, phrases, imagery, examples, etc. reveal the tone?</li> </ul>	The tone is excitement. They are thrilled to tell the family that they have flown safely. He says, "The machinery all works in entirely satisfactory manner and seems reliable." This shows that their flying machine works!