**Prose Passage**

**Plot and Structure:**

* Who is the protagonist? What are the conflicts?
* Does the plot have unity? How does the story end?

**Characterization**

* Physical description
* Narrator’s commentary
* Action, thoughts
* Speech
* What other characters think and feel about the character.
* Motivation

**Theme**

* Examine title, details, tone, resolution.
* Does the story have a theme? Explicit? Implicit?
* State the theme in a single sentence.

**Narrative Point of View**

* What point of view is used? Is it consistent? Are there shifts?
* 1st person, omniscient, limited, objective
* What advantages does the point of view give?
* If the point of view is that of one of the characters, is there limitation? Bias? Reliability?
* Does the point of view reveal or conceal?

**Symbol**

* Do symbols carry the meaning or reinforce it?
* Types: Setting, name, object, idea

**Humor and Irony**

* Is the humor for its own sake or does it contribute to meaning?
* What type of irony is present? Dramatic, situational, verbal?

**General**

* Is the primary interest fin the plot, character, setting, theme, or some other element?
* Title significance?

**Tone is everything**:

Examine the following: diction, imagery, details, sentence structure

Technique: SOAPSTone

S=Who is the speaker?

O=What is the occasion, setting, context?

A=Who is the audience

P=What is the purpose or reason behind the text?

S= What is the subject or general topic, content, ideas

Tone=Verbal stance of the speaker, author, or character

**Style is also a heavy consideration:**

Diction:

* # of monosyllabic words used
* # of polysyllabic words used
* Formal/informal
* Euphonic/Cacophonic
* Figurative language
* Vivid diction

Sentence Structure/sentence pattern/syntax:

* Functional
  + Declarative - statement
  + Interrogative - question
  + Imperative - command
  + Exclamatory – exclamation
* Grammatical
  + Simple – one subject, one verb
  + Compound – two independent clauses
  + Complex – at least one subordinate and one independent clause
  + Compound-complex – two or more independents and at least one subordinate
* Rhetorical
  + Loose/Cumulative – Main idea followed by more information
  + Periodic – Main idea withheld until the end of the sentence
* Patterns
  + Basic (S-V)
  + Inversion (V-S)
* Length
  + Telegraphic (short)
  + Medium (5-8 words)
  + Long/involved (30+ word in a sentence)

Figures of Speech

* Imagery
* Analogies like similes and metaphors
* Personification, apostrophe?
* Hyperbole? Understatement?
* Paradox, oxymoron?
* Rhythm/sound devices?

Organization

* Patterns: specific to general? simple to complex? chronological? narrative? spatial? compare and contrast? cause and effect?
* Title of passage?