

## Attention Rising Sophomores!

The 10th grade teachers of the CT English Department have created a brief summer assignment for you to complete in an effort to best support your critical reading, writing, and thinking skills before we return to school. Please read the assignment below as well as the example we provided. All Technicians who will be in the 10th grade for the 2023-2024 school year are required to complete this assignment which will be submitted, read, and graded by your English teacher upon your return to school.

### STEP ONE: Select and Read Your Article

Visit Long Reads (<https://longreads.com/>) a website which showcases thought-provoking and well written non-fiction articles from a variety of accredited news sources. Select ONE article to read and use for your written response. Your article must be published after 2015, and cannot be the same article as our example, entitled “Will the Corona Virus Make Us Rethink Mass Incarceration?”

### STEP TWO: Create a SOAPSTONE Chart

As a non-fiction reader, it is important not only to pay attention to what the author is writing, but also to recognize who they are writing to, and for what reason. Review the SOAPSTONE chart below, and create one of your own based on the text you selected. Ensure that you are completing both the claim and the evidence column on your chart. Use short quotes from the text as evidence.

| CLAIM<br><i>What's your argument?</i>   | EVIDENCE<br><i>Where in the text is your proof?</i> |
|---|---|
| <b>S- Speaker.</b> The voice that tells the story. Is it the author? A narrator? A character?   |   |
| <b>O- Occasion.</b> The time and the place of the piece; the context that prompted the writing. |   |
| <b>A- Audience.</b> The group of readers to whom this piece is directed.                        |   |
| <b>P- Purpose.</b> The reason behind the text.  |   |
| <b>S- Subject.</b> The main idea of the text.   |   |

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| <b>TONE:</b> The attitude of the author towards his/her subject. |  |
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### STEP THREE: Write a Thesis Statement

Thesis statements allow your reader to know your stance and direction in writing. Identify the topic and claim of the piece you read, provide 2-3 pieces of evidence to complete a thesis statement. This year you will be introduced to the term rhetoric, the art of writing and speaking persuasively. As you read your article, consider the author's rhetorical choices:

- What types of words are they using?
  - Is this diction (word choice) positive, negative, or neutral?
- Are they creating an emotion in their audience?
  - Are they doing this through imagery? Their tone? Including people's stories?
- Are they using data or statistics to support their claim? Are these numbers convincing?
- Are they interviewing experts in the field to support their claim? Is this convincing?

In your thesis statement, include the author's name, subject (from SOAPSTONE), audience (from SOAPSTONE), purpose (from SOAPSTONE) and 2-3 rhetorical choices they utilized to achieve their purpose. Manipulate the following formula to work for you:

In (author's last name) article about (subject), (he/she/they) (verb) (purpose) through utilizing (insert 2-3 rhetorical choices here).

### STEP FOUR: Review our Examples

The Cass Tech English teacher team has completed this assignment using an article we found particularly interesting. Please review our work below, which follows the instructions of what we are asking you to complete, so that you feel better prepared to approach this task. Each example is highlighted in **yellow**.

**ARTICLE:** "Will the Corona Virus Make Us Rethink Mass Incarceration"

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/05/25/will-the-coronavirus-make-us-rethink-mass-incarceration>

### SOAPSTONE CHART:

| CLAIM  | EVIDENCE  |
|--|---|
| <b>S- Speaker</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sarah Stillman</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "On her way to the hospital to deliver her son, the next day, Bowie called me" (Stillman).</li><li>• "Kisha Edwards, who works for the First 72+, told me that those who are released</li></ul> |

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|   | still face circumstances that are ‘surreal and devastating’” (Stillman).   |
| <b>O- Occasion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring 2020 in the height of the COVID19 Outbreak.</li> <li>• New Orleans, Louisiana</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “On March 14th, Roslyn Crouch, a mother of twelve, left her house in New Orleans to stock up on toilet paper and canned goods, and didn’t return” (Stillman).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>A- Audience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uninformed civilians who fail to see the havoc the virus has created for vulnerable populations</li> <li>• Lawmakers and policy stakeholders who contribute to the flawed policies that negatively impact the public health</li> <li>• Activists and grassroots organizations that focus on ending mass incarceration and abolishing prisons.</li> <li>• Public Health officials who need to recognize the inequity that led to the terrible rates of infections</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “In April, the American Civil Liberties Union worked with epidemiologists and statisticians to show that, without protective measures in jails and prisons, including rapid reductions in incarcerated populations, the virus could kill an additional hundred thousand Americans” (Stillman).</li> <li>• “Patrisse Cullors, the co-founder of Black Lives Matter, told me, from Los Angeles, where she’s been organizing for releases with Reform L.A. Jails. “At the local, state, and national level, this is a moment when we can collectively transform how our country relates to the most vulnerable” (Stillman).</li> </ul> |
| <b>P- Purpose</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To draw attention to the lack of healthcare in prison facilities, poor facilities, and ineffectiveness of our criminal justice system: the infection rate there was already seven times higher than in the city’s general population.</li> <li>• To amplify the voices of those who are incarcerated and most vulnerable to COVID19.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The jail’s chief physician called it “a crisis of a magnitude no generation living today has ever seen” (Stillman).</li> <li>• “By far, the most effective driver of change right now has come directly from those locked up, on the inside,” Jayadev said. “Their voices, their demands for survival” (Stillman).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>S- Subject</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public health inequalities that disproportionately affect Black people</li> <li>• Unjust causes for incarcerating people</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “In late March, Governor John Bel Edwards announced that Louisiana had the fastest-growing coronavirus infection rate in the world. According to state reports at the end of last year, Louisiana also had the highest incarceration rate in</li> </ul>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of humanity and dignity in the criminal justice system</li> </ul>                       | <p>the country” (Stillman).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Since 2013, the main jail in Orleans Parish has been under a consent decree for what the Department of Justice called “dangerous and unacceptable” conditions, including “inadequate medical care.” Prisons, too, present a contagion risk; they have less rapid turnover than jails, but staff come and go, and large populations and underfunded health services make outbreaks hard to contain” (Stillman).</li> <li>• “For decades, community groups have pointed out the social costs of mass incarceration: its failure to address the root causes of addiction and violence; its steep fiscal price tag; its deepening of racial inequalities” (Stillman).</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>TONE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outraged</li> <li>• Urgent</li> <li>• Doubtful (in the system)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Since 2013, the main jail in Orleans Parish has been under a consent decree for what the Department of Justice called “dangerous and unacceptable” conditions, including “inadequate medical care.” Prisons, too, present a contagion risk; they have less rapid turnover than jails, but staff come and go, and large populations and underfunded health services make outbreaks hard to contain” (Stillman).</li> <li>• “Local organizers are ramping up their fight. The Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition is pressing for an agreement from police to reduce arrests” (Stillman).</li> <li>• “Roslyn Crouch has a similar hope for her city, but she wonders how many incarcerated people will die before any such changes take place” (Stillman).</li> </ul> |

### THESIS STATEMENT:

In Stillman’s article which discusses how the recent pandemic exposed insufficient prison health services, she argues that COVID-19’s risk factors have proven decarceration necessary for public health through utilizing facts, credible sources, and an empathetic tone.