

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmasking the Discursive Architect: Your Senior Critical Reading Challenge

Examine subtext and rhetorical maneuvers within complex political and philosophical treatises to refine your advanced evaluative synthesis skills.

1. In a post-colonial critique of a 19th-century travelogue, which analytical lens most effectively exposes the author's 'unspoken assumptions' about cultural hierarchy?

Answer: C) Deconstruction of binary oppositions (e.g., 'civilized' vs. 'primitive')

Deconstruction reveals how authors create meaning through hierarchies and oppositions, exposing the Western-centric bias inherent in colonial-era texts.

2. True or False: In a high-level scholarly argument, an author's choice to omit counter-arguments is always a sign of poor scholarship rather than a deliberate rhetorical strategy to establish a specific paradigm.

Answer: B) False

While it can be a flaw, advanced critical reading recognizes that authors sometimes omit counter-arguments to define the scope of their inquiry or to prioritize a nascent theoretical framework.

3. When evaluating the 'Internal Consistency' of a philosophical treatise, what is the primary focus of the reader?

Answer: B) Whether the premise and the conclusion are logically connected without self-contradiction

Internal consistency measures the logical integrity of the text itself, ensuring the author does not contradict their own foundational rules or definitions.

4. To identify _____ bias, a critical reader looks for instances where an author assumes their own cultural or social norms are the universal standard for all human experience.

Answer: B) Normative

Normative bias occurs when a writer presents their specific worldview or value system as the default or 'correct' way of being, often marginalizing alternative perspectives.

5. Consider an essay that uses a highly 'idiosyncratic' vocabulary to describe common psychological states. What is the most likely critical objective of the author?

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Answer: B) To challenge conventional thinking by distancing the reader from familiar terms

In advanced literature and philosophy, 'defamiliarization' through unique language is used to force the reader to engage more deeply and look at common concepts with fresh eyes.

6. True or False: In a technical synthesis, the 'Synthesis' level of Bloom's Taxonomy requires the reader to create a new, original perspective by combining information from multiple conflicting sources.

Answer: A) True

Synthesis is the act of integrating disparate parts to form a new whole; for 12th graders, this means moving beyond summary to develop an original thesis based on research.

7. A reader spotting a 'False Dilemma' in a political speech is identifying a flaw in _____, where the author presents only two options when more exist.

Answer: B) Logical validity

Logical validity refers to the soundness of the reasoning. A false dilemma (or black-and-white fallacy) is a logical error that undermines the strength of an argument.

8. Which question best facilitates an 'evaluative' critique of a peer-reviewed scientific abstract?

Answer: C) To what extent do the methodology's limitations undermine the generalizability of the findings?

Evaluation involves making a judgment about the value or validity of a text. Assessing generalizability based on methodology is a high-level evaluative skill.

9. When a text relies heavily on _____, it uses emotional appeals to bypass the reader's logical faculties, a common target for critical deconstruction.

Answer: B) Pathos

Pathos is the rhetorical appeal to emotion. Critical readers identify when an author uses intense emotion to distract from a lack of empirical evidence or logical coherence.

10. True or False: The 'Intentional Fallacy' suggests that a critical reader should judge a text based primarily on what the author claims they intended to say in interviews or journals.

Answer: B) False

The 'Intentional Fallacy' is the literary theory that a poem or text stands on its own; the author's stated intention is not the ultimate authority on the text's meaning.

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