

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Sleuth of the Subtext: An 8th Grade Critical Reading Quest

Learners sharpen their rhetorical analysis skills by deconstructing complex arguments and identifying logical fallacies in persuasive texts.

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**1. In a 19th-century editorial advocating for the conservation of the American West, the author writes: 'To ignore these vistas is to blind one's own soul to the divine.' What rhetorical device is most likely being used here to influence the reader?**

**Answer:** C) Emotional Appeal (Pathos)

By linking the preservation of nature to the 'soul' and the 'divine,' the author is utilizing Pathos to evoke a deep emotional response from the reader.

**2. When an author assumes that because Event A happened before Event B, Event A must have caused Event B, they are committing the \_\_\_\_\_ fallacy.**

**Answer:** B) Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc

The 'Post Hoc' fallacy is a common error in reasoning where a chronological sequence is mistaken for a causal relationship.

**3. A critical reader should assume that a peer-reviewed scientific journal article is automatically free of institutional bias.**

**Answer:** B) False

Critical reading involves acknowledging that even respected academic sources can have institutional biases or funding influences that require scrutiny.

**4. If a modern tech CEO writes an article about the 'dangers of AI regulation,' which element of critical reading should the student prioritize first to evaluate the text's validity?**

**Answer:** B) The author's underlying conflict of interest

Identifying a conflict of interest is essential in evaluating the objectivity of an argument, especially when the author stands to profit from a specific outcome.

**5. Critical reading requires the 'Synthesis' of information. This means the reader must \_\_\_\_\_ different parts of the text or multiple texts to form a new conclusion.**

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**Answer:** C) Combine

Synthesis involves synthesizing or combining various insights and pieces of evidence to create a comprehensive understanding or a new perspective.

**6. Consider Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay 'Self-Reliance.' If a critic argues that Emerson's emphasis on the individual ignores the necessity of community support, what critical reading lens are they using?**

**Answer:** C) Counter-Argument Analysis

Evaluating what a text lacks or how others might disagree focuses on counter-arguments, which is a hallmark of advanced critical reading.

**7. Implicit bias in a text is often conveyed through 'connotative' word choices rather than direct statements.**

**Answer:** A) True

Bias is frequently found in the 'connotation' (suggested meaning) of words, such as calling a leader 'decisive' vs. 'authoritarian.'

**8. When analyzing an ancient primary source, like the Code of Hammurabi, why must a critical reader consider the 'intended audience'?**

**Answer:** A) To determine how the author adjusted their tone to influence that specific group

Authors tailor their rhetoric to the values and knowledge of their specific audience; understanding that audience is key to unlocking the author's strategy.

**9. A statement such as 'The architecture of the Guggenheim Museum is revolutionary' is classified as an \_\_\_\_\_ because it is a value judgment.**

**Answer:** C) Informed Opinion

While it can be supported by evidence, calling something 'revolutionary' is an evaluation or informed opinion, not a purely objective fact.

**10. The primary goal of critical reading is to find the one 'correct' meaning that the author intended.**

**Answer:** B) False

Critical reading involves examining layered meanings, unintended biases, and the interaction between the reader's perspective and the text, rather than just seeking one simple answer.

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