

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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?

- A. Statistical Appeal (Logos)
- B. Ethical Appeal (Ethos)
- C. Emotional Appeal (Pathos)
- D. Character Assassination (Ad Hominem)

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.

- A. Slippery Slope
- B. Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc
- C. Red Herring
- D. Straw Man

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

- A. True
- B. False

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?

- A. The spelling and grammar of the article
- B. The author's underlying conflict of interest
- C. The length of the sentences used
- D. The font choice of the publication

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.

- A. Summarize
- B. Delete
- C. Combine
- D. Memorize

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?

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- A. Biographical Analysis
- B. Historical Contextualization
- C. Counter-Argument Analysis
- D. Vocabulary Decoding

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. To determine how the author adjusted their tone to influence that specific group
- B. To check if the text contains modern scientific facts
- C. To see if the text was written in English
- D. To find out how many people read it on the internet

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

- A. Inference
- B. Empirical Fact
- C. Informed Opinion
- D. Quantitative Core

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

- A. True
- B. False