

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

## Answer Key: Decipher the Architect's Hidden Agenda in Your 9th Grade Reading Quiz

Sophomores weigh rhetorical ethos against logical fallacies to analyze authorial intent and strengthen their evaluation of complex non-fiction texts.

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**1. An editorial arguing for urban expansion uses the phrase 'inevitable progress' multiple times. What specific critical reading skill is required to evaluate this choice of language?**

**Answer:** B) Deconstructing loaded language to uncover underlying assumptions

Critical reading involves identifying 'loaded language'—words that imply a value judgment (like 'inevitable') to sway the audience's perception without providing evidence.

**2. True or False: If an author provides a peer-reviewed citation for a claim, the critical reader should accept that claim as absolute fact without further inquiry.**

**Answer:** B) False

Critical reading requires examining how the evidence is applied. Even credible data can be cherry-picked or misinterpreted to support a biased argument.

**3. When a text relies heavily on the writer's credentials as a renowned neuroscientist rather than providing data for a specific claim about education, it is primarily using \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** A) An Appeal to Authority (Ethos)

The author is using their status (ethos) as a substitute for logical evidence (logos). A critical reader must distinguish between expertise and relevant proof.

**4. In a historical analysis of the Silk Road, the author ignores the impact of the plague to focus solely on cultural exchange. This selective inclusion of information is an example of:**

**Answer:** B) Omission bias

Omission bias occurs when an author leaves out significant facts that might complicate or contradict their primary thesis.

**5. A critical reader identifies the statement 'The current taxation system is a relic of a bygone era' as \_\_\_\_\_.**

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**Answer:** C) A value judgment masquerading as fact

The use of metaphor ('relic') and subjective phrasing ('bygone era') indicates a value judgment or opinion, not a statement that can be proven true or false.

**6. True or False: Inferring an author's tone is a key component of critical reading because it helps reveal the author's attitude toward the subject matter.**

**Answer:** A) True

Tone provides context for the argument. A cynical or mocking tone suggests the author is attempting to devalue an opposing viewpoint through rhetoric rather than evidence.

**7. Which question would a critical reader ask to evaluate the 'scaffolding' of an argument regarding the ethics of Artificial Intelligence?**

**Answer:** C) What logical leaps exist between the author's premises and their conclusion?

Evaluating the transition from a premise (basic claim) to a conclusion reveals whether the argument is logically sound or suffers from logical fallacies.

**8. If an article about deep-sea exploration is funded by an oil company, a critical reader must investigate the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest identifies potential bias, as the organization funding the information may have a financial stake in the outcome of the findings.

**9. True or False: Asking 'Who is the intended audience?' is irrelevant if the facts in the text are accurate.**

**Answer:** B) False

Audience identification is crucial because it explains why certain information was emphasized and why specific persuasive techniques were used.

**10. A student compares two essays on renewable energy. Essay A uses emotional anecdotes from families, while Essay B uses kilowatt-hour efficiency data. The student is performing:**

**Answer:** A) Rhetorical analysis of Pathos versus Logos

Synthesizing and comparing different rhetorical strategies (emotions vs. logic) is a high-level critical reading skill used to evaluate the effectiveness of an argument.

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