

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sharpen Your Rhetorical Lens: 9th Grade Critical Reading Quiz

Students gain the ability to dismantle complex arguments by identifying logical fallacies and evaluating the credibility of diverse source types.

1. An editorial arguing for urban green spaces cites a 2023 study from the 'Journal of Environmental Psychology' alongside a quote from a local gardener. Which source provides stronger evidence for a causal claim about mental health?

- A. The local gardener, because personal anecdotes offer emotional resonance.
- B. The peer-reviewed study, as it likely utilizes controlled variables and statistical significance.
- C. Neither, because editorials are by definition subjective and cannot contain reliable data.
- D. The local gardener, because they have direct 'boots on the ground' experience in the specific city.

2. When a writer acknowledges a valid point made by the opposing side before refuting it, they are using a _____ to strengthen their own ethos.

- A. Red herring
- B. Concession
- C. Ad hominem
- D. Hasty generalization

3. A critical reader should assume that if an article contains many complex statistics, the author's conclusion is automatically objective fact.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of the following questions best targets the 'rhetorical situation' of a speech by a tech CEO regarding new privacy AI?

- A. How many employees does the CEO currently manage?
- B. What is the specific definition of 'AI' used in the first paragraph?
- C. How might the CEO's financial interest in the company color their claims about 'user safety'?
- D. Is the speech printed in a serif or sans-serif font?

5. Identifying the 'target audience' of a text is a form of _____ assessment, helping the reader understand why certain tones or vocabulary choices were made.

- A. Syntactic
- B. Contextual
- C. Grammatical
- D. Linear

6. An 'inference' is an educated guess based on explicit evidence from the text combined with prior knowledge.

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- A. True
- B. False

7. Select the statement that represents an UNSTATED assumption in an argument that says: 'Switching to electric buses will eliminate our city's traffic congestion.'

- A. The current buses run on diesel fuel.
- B. Congestion is caused by the type of fuel vehicles use, rather than the number of vehicles on the road.
- C. Electric buses are quieter than traditional buses.
- D. The city council has the budget to buy new buses.

8. In a comparative analysis of two news reports on the same protest, a student notices one uses the word 'demonstrators' while the other uses 'rioters.' This focus on _____ reveals the authors' differing biases.

- A. Diction
- B. Punctuation
- C. Alliteration
- D. Stanza

9. You are reading a historical document from 1920 advocating against women's suffrage. To read this critically, you must use 'historical empathy.' What does this mean?

- A. Agreeing with the author's outdated perspective.
- B. Updating the text to use modern language and values.
- C. Analyzing the argument within the social norms and prevailing beliefs of the 1920s.
- D. Ignoring the text entirely because it is no longer relevant.

10. A logical fallacy is a technical term for a valid, well-supported piece of evidence.

- A. True
- B. False