

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

## Lexical Labyrinth: Vernacular vs. Vague Expressions for College Composition

Evaluate and deconstruct socio-political and academic idioms through contextual analysis to bridge the gap between colloquial fluency and formal rhetoric.

---

**1. In the context of institutional change, what is the most accurate interpretation of the expression 'turning the Titanic'?**

- A. A swift and efficient structural reorganization.
- B. A slow, difficult process of altering the direction of a large organization.
- C. A public relations disaster resulting in total liquidation.
- D. Selecting a new leadership team during a time of crisis.

**2. True or False: The expression 'moving the goalposts' refers to a logical fallacy where the criteria for success are changed after the initial requirements have been met.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. In legislative discourse, a '\_\_\_\_\_ bill' refers to a piece of legislation that attracts various unrelated amendments often intended to secure funding for local projects.**

- A. Paper tiger
- B. Rubber stamp
- C. Christmas tree
- D. Glass ceiling

**4. When a scholar is said to be 'standing on the shoulders of giants,' they are specifically acknowledging:**

- A. Their physical height compared to their predecessors.
- B. The necessity of overthrowing outdated scientific theories.
- C. The intellectual debt owed to the discoveries of previous researchers.
- D. The physical labor of the working class during the Industrial Revolution.

**5. True or False: To describe a policy as a 'stalking horse' suggests it is a formidable and unstoppable force in the upcoming election.**

- A. True
- B. False

**6. If a journalist refers to a political scandal as a '\_\_\_\_\_ issue,' they mean it is so controversial that politicians risk their careers by touching it.**

- A. Cold feet
- B. Third rail
- C. Silver bullet
- D. White elephant

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

**7. The term 'dog-whistle politics' uses a metaphor based on high-frequency sound to describe:**

- A. Loud, aggressive campaigning that intimidates voters.
- B. Coded language that appears normal to the general public but resonates with a specific subgroup.
- C. Policy changes that happen too fast for the public to hear about them.
- D. The use of animals in campaign advertisements to build trust.

**8. When an analyst refers to a 'black swan event,' they are describing an occurrence that is:**

- A. Predictable based on historical trends.
- B. Beautiful but ultimately tragic in its outcome.
- C. A highly improbable event with a massive impact that is often rationalized after the fact.
- D. The result of a deliberate, long-term conspiracy.

**9. True or False: In legal or philosophical theory, a 'slippery slope' argument assumes that one relatively small initial step will inevitably lead to a chain of related, negative events.**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. To '\_\_\_\_\_ the Gordian Knot' is an expression used to describe solving a complex problem through a bold, decisive, and often unconventional action.**

- A. Untie
- B. Cut
- C. Tangle
- D. Ignore