

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

## Answer Key: Shadows and Truth: Sophomore Critical Reading Lab

Examine the tension between rhetoric and reality by dissecting logical fallacies, implicit bias, and the weight of archival evidence in complex arguments.

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**1. An author arguing for urban renewal focuses exclusively on the visual aesthetics of new developments while omitting data on the displacement of long-term residents. This represents which critical reading concern?**

**Answer:** B) Selection bias and omission

Critical reading involves identifying what is absent; by omitting displacement data, the author creates a skewed narrative to favor their claim.

**2. True or False: In a high-level critical analysis, an 'objective' tone is a definitive guarantee that the text is free from ideological bias.**

**Answer:** B) False

Sophisticated texts often use a neutral, clinical tone to mask specific agendas or frames of reference, making critical scrutiny even more necessary.

**3. A presidential speechwriter uses the phrase 'our common destiny' to create \_\_\_\_; a critical reader identifies this as an attempt to minimize internal socio-economic divisions.**

**Answer:** C) universalizing language

Universalizing language (like 'we' or 'our') is a rhetorical tool used to build consensus and obscure conflicting interests within a diverse population.

**4. Which of these pairs represents the most challenging distinction for a critical reader evaluating a historical monograph?**

**Answer:** B) Informed Interpretation vs. Implicit Bias

At the 10th-grade level, students must distinguish between an evidence-based interpretation and an author's subconscious prejudices or cultural framing.

**5. True or False: The validity of a syllogism (Logic A + Logic B = Conclusion C) depends entirely on the truth of its underlying premises.**

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**Answer:** A) True

Critical readers must evaluate the truth of the premises; if the foundation is false, the logical conclusion—no matter how smoothly argued—is invalid.

**6. When reading an academic paper on AI ethics, the presence of 'counter-argumentation' serves primarily to:**

**Answer:** C) Establish the author's credibility through intellectual honesty

Acknowledging and refuting opposing views (concession and rebuttal) is a hallmark of sophisticated, credible argumentation.

**7. A journalist reports that 'The senator's policy is a recipe for disaster.' A critical reader labels this as \_\_\_\_\_ because it uses metaphorical, value-laden language rather than empirical data.**

**Answer:** B) subjective editorializing

Editorializing occurs when a writer injects personal judgment into a report using evocative language instead of neutral descriptions.

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

**Answer:** B) potential conflict of interest regarding conclusions

Evaluating the source's funding is essential to identifying potential bias that might influence the findings or the framing of the data.

**9. True or False: Annotating a text by only highlighting key terms is a form of deep critical reading.**

**Answer:** B) False

Highlighting is passive; critical reading requires active engagement, such as noting contradictions, questioning evidence, and connecting ideas.

**10. In her essay, the philosopher uses \_\_\_\_\_ by comparing the human mind to a vast, interconnected library, helping her argue for the importance of cognitive architecture.**

**Answer:** A) an extended analogy

Analogies are used in critical reading to explain complex abstract concepts through more familiar, concrete comparisons.

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