

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

## Answer Key: Cosmic Critique: 11th Grade Critical Reading Quests

Can you spot the logical leaps in a galactic manifesto? Deconstruct complex rhetorical strategies and evaluate source validity within simulated interstellar debates.

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**1. An orbital engineering firm releases a report claiming their Mars colony is 'the safest habitat in the quadrant,' citing a lack of mechanical failures over its first 90 days. Which critical reading lens identifies the flaw here?**

**Answer:** A) Hasty generalization based on insufficient duration

Claiming long-term 'safety' based on a mere 90-day window is a logical fallacy of insufficient evidence, as it ignores long-term structural fatigue or variable environmental cycles.

**2. When examining a tech mogul's op-ed advocating for unregulated AI development, a critical reader must identify the author's \_\_\_\_\_ to understand how personal profit motives may influence the argument.**

**Answer:** B) Vested interest

A 'vested interest' refers to a personal or financial stake in an outcome, which is a primary source of bias that critical readers seek to uncover.

**3. In the context of critical reading, identifying a text as 'rhetorically effective' is the same as asserting that the text's claims are objectively true.**

**Answer:** B) False

Rhetorical effectiveness measures how well a text persuades its audience; it does not guarantee the factual accuracy or ethical validity of the claims being made.

**4. Consider a speech by a fictional United Nations Representative regarding deep-sea mining. If the speaker uses emotionally charged language like 'plundering the silent depths,' they are primarily employing:**

**Answer:** B) Pathos to evoke an aesthetic and moral reaction

Words like 'plundering' and 'silent depths' are designed to trigger an emotional response (pathos) rather than providing data or establishing authority.

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**5. A critical reader evaluates the \_\_\_\_ of a source by checking if the information is current, published by a reputable body, and supported by peer-reviewed evidence.**

**Answer:** C) Credibility

Credibility is the quality of being trusted and believed in, which is established through rigor, reputation, and evidence.

**6. The presence of a counter-argument within an essay typically weakens the author's primary claim in the eyes of a critical reader.**

**Answer:** B) False

Addressing a counter-argument (concession/refutation) usually strengthens an argument by demonstrating the author's comprehensive understanding of the topic.

**7. A historian writes about the 1920s 'Roaring Twenties' but focuses exclusively on the economic growth of urban centers while ignoring rural poverty. This is an example of:**

**Answer:** C) Selection bias (omission)

Selection bias or omission occurs when an author leaves out significant perspectives or data that would provide a fuller, more complex picture of the subject.

**8. To analyze the \_\_\_\_ of a document, a student must look beyond the literal text to understand the socio-political environment in which it was produced.**

**Answer:** A) Historical context

Historical context is essential for critical reading because external events and cultural norms heavily influence an author's purpose and messaging.

**9. In a debate about green energy, a speaker claims, 'If we don't ban all fossil fuels by midnight, the planet will be uninhabitable by morning.' This is an example of which logical fallacy?**

**Answer:** B) False Dilemma/Dichotomy

By presenting only two extreme options (immediate ban or total destruction), the speaker creates a false dichotomy that ignores realistic middle-ground solutions.

**10. The 'tone' of a text reflects the author's attitude toward the subject matter and is often conveyed through specific word choices and sentence structures.**

**Answer:** A) True

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Tone is a critical investigative tool; by analyzing diction and syntax, readers can determine if an author is being ironic, objective, or alarmist.