

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Anatomy of the Architect: Critical Reading for Scholars

How do hidden ideological frameworks dictate a text's structural integrity? Synthesize complex rhetorical maneuvers and evaluate the validity of high-level academic discourse.

1. When performing a 'symptomatic reading' of a 19th-century colonial manifesto, what is the primary objective of the critical reader?

Answer: B) To identify ideological gaps and 'silences' that reveal the author's unstated assumptions.

At the college level, critical reading involves identifying what is not said—the underlying ideologies (symptomatic reading) that inform the text's perspective.

2. A scholar evaluating a scientific abstract must remain neutral, as the presence of a 'hedging' phrase (e.g., 'the data suggests') indicates a lack of empirical validity.

Answer: B) False

In academic writing, 'hedging' is a sophisticated rhetorical tool used to demonstrate precision and acknowledge the limits of certainty, rather than a sign of invalidity.

3. When assessing the credibility of a peer-reviewed meta-analysis, a critical reader looks for _____, which occurs when researchers only publish positive results, skewing the overall evidence base.

Answer: B) publication bias

Publication bias specifically refers to the tendency for journals to favor significant results over null results, a critical factor in evaluating the reliability of synthesis research.

4. Critiquing Jean Baudrillard's concept of 'hyperreality' requires the reader to synthesize the text with contemporary digital culture. Which approach exemplifies this synthesis?

Answer: C) Analyzing how social media algorithms create simulations that supersede physical reality.

Synthesis involves taking a theoretical concept and applying it to a new, complex context to create an original analysis.

5. The 'intentional fallacy' suggests that a critic should prioritize the author's stated purpose over the internal evidence found within the text itself.

Answer: B) False

Name: _____ Date: _____

The intentional fallacy is the literary theory that an author's intention is irrelevant to the interpretation of the work; the focus must remain on the text.

6. In the context of critical discourse analysis, the term _____ refers to the way a text positions the reader to accept a particular worldview as 'common sense.'

Answer: A) interpellation

Interpellation, a term from Louis Althusser, describes how ideologies constitute social subjects through the process of 'hailing' them via texts and institutions.

7. Which of these represents a 'meta-critical' question during the evaluation of a philosophical treatise?

Answer: B) What underlying epistemological framework is the author using to define 'truth'?

Meta-criticism involves questioning the very foundations and methods of the argument, such as its epistemology, rather than just the logic of the argument itself.

8. A reader identifying a 'reductio ad absurdum' in a legal opinion is engaging in _____ by demonstrating that the logic leads to an untenable or ridiculous conclusion.

Answer: B) logical deconstruction

Deconstructing the logic of an argument to show its inherent contradictions or failure at extreme points is a hallmark of advanced critical analysis.

9. An 'intertextual analysis' requires the reader to look beyond the single document to see how it references, dialogues with, or challenges previous works in the same field.

Answer: A) True

Intertextuality recognizes that no text exists in a vacuum; critical readers must understand the 'conversation' between texts to fully grasp meaning.

10. If you are evaluating an ethnographic study, why is it critical to analyze the researcher's 'positionality'?

Answer: B) To understand how the researcher's own social identity and biases may have shaped their observations and data interpretation.

Positionality is a key concept in qualitative research; critical readers must account for the subjective lens of the observer to evaluate the findings' validity.