

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Sophomore Sluice: The Critical Reading Current

Follow the flow of information to spot rhetorical tricks and verify facts in modern media and investigative journalism.

1. An editorial author writes, 'The proposed city park expansion is a vibrant lung for our choking urban landscape.' This statement is best classified as:

Answer: B) A figurative opinion used for persuasion

The use of metaphors like 'vibrant lung' and 'choking landscape' reflects the author's subjective perspective and emotional appeal rather than a neutral, provable fact.

2. True or False: If an article includes specific dates and locations, it is automatically free from author bias.

Answer: B) False

Even with factual data like dates and locations, an author can still show bias through what information they choose to include or omit.

3. When a reader looks for the _____, they are trying to identify the specific group of people the author intended to reach with their message.

Answer: A) Target audience

The target audience dictates the tone, vocabulary, and evidence an author uses to be most effective.

4. Which of the following serves as the most reliable evidence for a claim about the safety of a new electric car?

Answer: C) A report from an independent national highway safety institute

Independent institutes provide objective, data-driven results that are not influenced by the need to sell a product or gain social media likes.

5. True or False: Critical reading requires you to evaluate the logic of an argument even if you already agree with the author's conclusion.

Answer: A) True

Name: _____ Date: _____

To be an effective critical reader, you must assess the quality of the evidence and reasoning regardless of your personal beliefs.

6. To determine the author's _____, a reader should ask why the text was written—whether to inform, persuade, or entertain.

Answer: B) Purpose

Understanding the author's purpose is a fundamental step in critical reading because it helps the reader anticipate potential biases.

7. Which of these is a fact rather than an opinion in a movie review?

Answer: B) The film ran for 124 minutes.

Run time is a measurable, objective piece of data that can be verified, while the other choices depend on personal taste.

8. When a blogger writes, 'Everyone knows that plastic straws are the absolute worst part of ocean pollution,' they are using a _____ to make a claim.

Answer: A) Generalization

Sentences starting with 'Everyone knows' or using absolute terms like 'the absolute worst' are generalizations that often lack specific evidentiary support.

9. A student is reading a news article about a new law. To practice critical reading, which question should they ask first?

Answer: C) What evidence supports the claims about this law's impact?

Analyzing the evidence behind a claim is a central component of high-school-level critical reading and comprehension.

10. True or False: An author's tone—whether it is angry, sarcastic, or professional—can help a reader identify their bias.

Answer: A) True

Tone provides clues about the author's attitude toward the subject, which is a key indicator of whether the text is neutral or biased.