

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

## Unpacking the Corporate Jargon: Your College Idioms Quiz

Examine the figurative meanings of professional expressions to boost your communicative competence in high-stakes networking and workplace environments.

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**1. In a professional setting, if a project manager asks you to 'take the lead' on a task, they are predominantly making an idiomatic request for which of the following?**

- A. To physically stand at the front of the room during meetings
- B. To assume primary responsibility and direct the progress of the work
- C. To conduct chemical research using lead-based materials
- D. To follow the instructions of the most senior staff member

**2. When an academic advisor suggests you 'keep your nose to the grindstone' during finals week, they are advising you to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Seek medical attention for stress-related issues
- B. Practice manual labor to clear your mind
- C. Work hard and stay focused on your tasks continuously
- D. Ignore your studies and focus on extracurriculars

**3. The idiom 'barking up the wrong tree' suggests that a person is looking for a solution in the wrong place or accusing the wrong person.**

- A. True
- B. False

**4. If a colleague mentions they are 'in a pickle' regarding their research budget, they are stating that they are:**

- A. Eating a snack during a lab break
- B. Preserving data for long-term storage
- C. In a difficult or unpleasant situation
- D. Confident about their financial standing

**5. A student who decides to 'cut corners' on their bibliography is likely \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Using scissors to format their paper
- B. Doing something poorly or taking shortcuts to save time or money
- C. Adding extra citations to improve their grade
- D. Highlighting the edges of the page for clarity

**6. In the context of a debate, what does it mean to 'play devil's advocate'?**

- A. To support the most popular opinion in the room
- B. To argue against an idea for the sake of exploring all sides of an issue
- C. To act as a legal representative for a controversial figure

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D. To refuse to participate in the discussion

**7. To 'jump on the bandwagon' means to join a popular activity or support an opinion simply because it has become fashionable.**

- A. True
- B. False

**8. If a professor tells you that your thesis statement is 'on the money', they mean it is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Attached to a grant application
- B. Costing too much to research
- C. Exactly correct or accurate
- D. Focusing too much on economic theory

**9. Which idiom would best describe a situation where a student realizes they have 'bitten off more than they can chew'?**

- A. They are eating lunch too quickly between classes
- B. They have committed to more credits or clubs than they can realistically manage
- C. They have successfully finished a very difficult assignment
- D. They are ignoring their responsibilities entirely

**10. The expression 'the elephant in the room' refers to an obvious major problem or issue that people are avoiding discussing.**

- A. True
- B. False