

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sift Through the Shift: Grade 12 Critical Reading Challenge

Examine rhetorical nuance and logical fallacies across 10 complex prompts involving historical speeches, scientific abstracts, and socio-political commentary.

1. In W.E.B. Du Bois's 'The Souls of Black Folk,' he discusses 'double consciousness.' To critically read this concept, which analytical lens is most effective for identifying the author's underlying assumptions?

- A. Analyzing the phonetic structure of the prose
- B. Evaluating the socio-historical tension between internal identity and external perception
- C. Checking the bibliography for primary source verification
- D. Categorizing the text as a purely fictional narrative

2. True or False: When a scientific abstract mentions a 'significant correlation,' a critical reader must accept this as definitive proof of a causal relationship.

- A. True
- B. False

3. When examining a politician's use of a 'straw man' argument to deflect criticism from a policy, a critical reader is identifying a failure in _____.

- A. Syllabic meter
- B. Logical integrity
- C. Standard orthography
- D. Chronological sequencing

4. Consider Virginia Woolf's use of 'stream of consciousness' in 'Mrs. Dalloway.' How does this stylistic choice challenge a reader's ability to find an objective 'fact' within the narrative?

- A. It eliminates the need for any punctuation or grammar
- B. It forces the reader to filter reality through a subjective, shifting psyche
- C. It provides a clear, chronological timeline of historical events
- D. It simplifies the author's intent for a general audience

5. True or False: Identifying 'omitted information' is as important to critical reading as analyzing the information provided in the text.

- A. True
- B. False

6. An editorial that uses 'loaded language' such as 'disastrous' or 'visionary' without providing supporting data is primarily relying on _____ to persuade the reader.

- A. Logos
- B. Pathos
- C. Quantitative data

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D. Peer review

7. Which of the following represents an 'inferential leap' rather than a direct textual fact when reading a legal opinion?

- A. The date the opinion was delivered by the court
- B. The names of the dissenting judges listed in the margin
- C. Assuming the judge's personal upbringing influenced their interpretation of the law
- D. The specific case number assigned to the filing

8. True or False: A primary goal of critical reading is to reach a state of 'neutrality' where the reader has no opinion on the text whatsoever.

- A. True
- B. False

9. In her essay 'The White Album,' Joan Didion writes, 'We tell ourselves stories in order to live.' Critically analyzing this statement requires the reader to evaluate the _____ of narrative construction.

- A. Utility
- B. Font size
- C. Publication cost
- D. Alphabetical order

10. If a documentary film uses somber orchestral music during a sequence about industrialization, a critical viewer (reading the 'visual text') should recognize this as:

- A. An objective documentation of historical soundscapes
- B. A technical error in the audio mixing
- C. An aesthetic choice designed to influence the viewer's emotional response
- D. Proof that industrialization was a quiet process