

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Shark Tank Logic Critical Reading Quiz for 10th Grade

Sophomores move beyond scanning for facts to dissecting rhetorical strategies and identifying logical fallacies in persuasive arguments.

1. A tech entrepreneur claims their new app is 'revolutionary' because 'everyone in Silicon Valley is talking about it.' Which logical flaw should a critical reader identify here?

Answer: B) Bandwagon fallacy

The claim relies on the popularity of the app ('everyone is talking about it') rather than its actual features or merit, which is a classic bandwagon fallacy.

2. True or False: In critical reading, an author's 'tone' is considered a secondary detail that does not impact the validity of their argument.

Answer: B) False

Tone is essential in critical reading as it can reveal bias, intent, and help the reader determine if the author is being objective or manipulative.

3. When an author uses a 'straw man' argument, they are _____ the opposing viewpoint to make it easier to attack.

Answer: C) Misrepresenting

A straw man argument involves misrepresenting or oversimplifying an opponent's position to make your own argument look stronger by comparison.

4. Which of these is the most 'credible' source for a research paper regarding the ethical implications of CRISPR gene editing?

Answer: C) A peer-reviewed article in 'Nature' or 'The Lancet'

Peer-reviewed scientific journals are the gold standard for credibility because the content is vetted by experts in the field before publication.

5. Critically examining a text's _____ involves looking at the specific group of people the author intends to reach and how that influences their choice of language.

Answer: B) Target audience

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The target audience dictates the level of vocabulary, types of evidence, and rhetorical appeals an author uses to be persuasive.

6. True or False: Identifying a contradiction within an author's own text is a key component of critical analysis.

Answer: A) True

Critical reading involves checking for internal consistency; if an author contradicts themselves, it weakens their overall argument and credibility.

7. Read this sentence: 'The candidate's plan for urban renewal is a hollow dream that ignores the harsh realities of our current economy.' This is primarily an example of:

Answer: B) Loaded language

Terms like 'hollow dream' and 'harsh realities' are loaded language—emotionally charged words intended to sway the reader's opinion rather than presenting neutral facts.

8. In critical reading, the term _____ refers to a preference or prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group in a way considered to be unfair.

Answer: C) Bias

Bias is a central concept in critical reading, as students must determine if the author is presenting a balanced view or a slanted perspective.

9. True or False: Synthesizing information means breaking a single paragraph down into its smallest grammatical parts.

Answer: B) False

Synthesis is the process of combining information from multiple sources or parts of a text to form a new, cohesive understanding, not just breaking it down.

10. If an author cites a '2005 study' to argue for a specific change in modern cybersecurity protocols, a critical reader should question the evidence based on its:

Answer: C) Currency (Timeliness)

In fast-moving fields like cybersecurity, 20-year-old data is likely outdated. Critical readers evaluate whether evidence is still relevant to the current context.