

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Sharpen Your College Critical Reading Skills

Deconstruct complex rhetorical structures and scrutinize implicit biases within academic and socio-political discourse.

1. When analyzing Simone de Beauvoir's 'The Second Sex', a critical reader identifies the 'Other' as a construct. Which analytical task is being performed?

Answer: B) Deconstructing the ontological framework of the argument

Critical reading at the college level involves identifying how an author constructs abstract concepts or frameworks to support their central thesis.

2. True or False: In critical analysis, an 'absence' in the text—what the author chooses not to mention—can be as significant as what is explicitly stated.

Answer: A) True

Identifying omissions or 'silences' is a key component of detecting bias and understanding the scope of an author's argument.

3. A scholar examining a 19th-century medical journal regarding 'hysteria' must account for ____ to avoid anachronistic interpretation.

Answer: C) The socio-historical paradigm

Critical reading requires situating a text within its historical context to understand how contemporary values influenced the author's claims.

4. Which of these represents a 'meta-cognitive' approach to reading a peer-reviewed paper on CRISPR technology?

Answer: B) Tracking how your own ethical beliefs influence your reception of the data

Meta-cognition in critical reading involves being aware of one's own biases and internal reactions while processing information.

5. When a critic evaluates an op-ed using the 'Toulmin Method', they are looking specifically for the ____, which connects the data to the claim.

Answer: A) Warrant

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The warrant is Socialist philosopher Stephen Toulmin's term for the underlying assumption that validates the link between evidence and a conclusion.

6. True or False: Identifying a logical fallacy, such as an 'ad hominem' attack in a political manifesto, is a core practice of critical reading.

Answer: A) True

Evaluating the logic of an argument involves spotting fallacies that undermine the validity of the author's conclusions.

7. An author writes: 'The implementation of Universal Basic Income is a dangerous experiment with the national character.' This statement serves primarily as:

Answer: B) A value-laden rhetorical claim

The use of 'dangerous experiment' and 'national character' are subjective, evaluative terms designed to persuade through emotion and ideology.

8. To evaluate the _____ of a source, a researcher should look for the author's institutional affiliations and 'h-index' in academic databases.

Answer: C) Credibility

Credibility in higher education is often determined by the expertise, background, and scholarly impact (h-index) of the author.

9. In the context of critical reading, what is the 'hermeneutics of suspicion'?

Answer: B) A style of reading that seeks to unmask hidden meanings or ideologies

This term refers to a balanced skepticism where the reader looks beneath the surface to find latent power structures or repressed meanings.

10. True or False: A critical reader should treat an author's use of 'pathos' (emotional appeal) as a sign that the entire argument is invalid.

Answer: B) False

Pathos is a legitimate rhetorical tool; a critical reader identifies its use and evaluates whether it complements or replaces logical evidence.