

Name: _____ Date: _____

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?

- A. Summarizing the historical timeline of the text
- B. Deconstructing the ontological framework of the argument
- C. Checking the text for grammatical accuracy
- D. Accepting the author's premises as objective truths

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Contemporary medical jargon
- B. The author's font choice
- C. The socio-historical paradigm
- D. The publisher's profit margin

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

- A. Highlighting every vocabulary word you do not know
- B. Tracking how your own ethical beliefs influence your reception of the data
- C. Copying the abstract into a notes document
- D. Assuming the data is correct because it is peer-reviewed

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.

- A. Warrant
- B. Introduction
- C. Abstract
- D. Bibliography

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.

- A. True

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B. False

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

- A. An empirical fact supported by longitudinal data
- B. A value-laden rhetorical claim
- C. A neutral observation of economic policy
- D. A peer-reviewed conclusion

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

- A. Readability
- B. Length
- C. Credibility
- D. Keywords

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

- A. The belief that all texts are factually incorrect
- B. A style of reading that seeks to unmask hidden meanings or ideologies
- C. A method for checking the spelling of ancient Greek words
- D. Reading only sources you already agree with

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.

- A. True
- B. False