

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Acing the Algorithms: College Critical Reading Challenge

Epistemological framing, dialectical synthesis, and logical fallacies—sharpen your ability to dismantle sophisticated rhetoric and identify systemic bias in academic discourse.

1. A researcher publishes a paper on urban planning but fails to disclose that their primary funding comes from a major real estate developer. Which critical reading lens is most essential here?

Answer: B) Conflict of interest and institutional bias

Critical reading at the college level requires identifying external influences and potential biases that may compromise the objectivity of a scholarly source.

2. When an author assumes that because Event A preceded Event B, Event A must have caused Event B, they are committing the _____ fallacy.

Answer: B) Post Hoc Ergo Propter Hoc

The Post Hoc fallacy is a common error in causal reasoning that critical readers must be able to identify when evaluating arguments.

3. True or False: In a peer-reviewed dialectical analysis, a 'synthesis' is simply a summary of the author's original thesis without considering the antithesis.

Answer: B) False

Synthesis involves reconciling the tension between a thesis and an antithesis to form a new, more complex understanding.

4. Which of the following best describes the 'hermeneutics of suspicion' as a critical reading strategy?

Answer: C) Approaching a text by looking for hidden political, social, or psychological motivations.

This advanced interpretive method involves looking beyond the surface meaning to uncover latent ideologies or power structures.

5. True or False: Identifying the 'occluded' or missing perspectives in a historical narrative is a core component of critical evaluation.

Answer: A) True

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Critical readers analyze not only what is present in a text but also what (or who) has been strategically omitted.

6. The process of _____ involve situating a text within its specific social, political, and economic era to understand its rhetorical exigency.

Answer: B) Contextualization

To evaluate an argument effectively, one must understand the environment and 'rhetorical situation' in which it was produced.

7. An editorial uses highly emotive language and 'loaded terms' to describe a new policy. A critical reader should primarily analyze this as an appeal to:

Answer: B) Pathos

Pathos refers to the use of emotional appeals, which can sometimes distract from a lack of logical evidence in an argument.

8. True or False: Deductive reasoning moves from specific observations to a broad, generalized conclusion.

Answer: B) False

Inductive reasoning moves from specific to general; deductive reasoning moves from general premises to a specific, necessary conclusion.

9. If a literary critic examines a novel focusing on the distribution of wealth and class struggle, they are likely utilizing a _____ theoretical framework.

Answer: A) Marxist

Academic critical reading often employs specific theoretical 'lenses,' such as Marxism, to analyze power dynamics within a text.

10. When evaluating a scientific abstract, which of the following represents the most 'critical' engagement?

Answer: C) Interrogating the methodology for potential variables that were not controlled.

Critical reading goes beyond comprehension to evaluation, specifically checking for flaws in how data was collected or interpreted.