

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Secrets of the Subtext: A 9th Grade Critical Reading Expedition

Examine rhetorical strategies and power dynamics in complex texts to reveal the hidden agendas behind persuasive writing.

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**1. Read the following sentence from an editorial: 'While some naively cling to outdated traditions, the forward-thinking community recognizes the inevitable necessity of the new transit hub.' Which critical reading technique best identifies the author's underlying bias?**

**Answer:** A) Analyzing the use of loaded language and binary oppositions.

The author uses 'naively' and 'outdated' to dismiss opposition while using 'forward-thinking' and 'inevitable' to validate their own view, creating a biased binary.

**2. A reader who evaluates a text by examining the social, political, and cultural environment in which it was written is utilizing \_\_\_\_\_ to deepen their understanding of the author's intent.**

**Answer:** B) historical contextualization

Historical contextualization involves looking at the era-specific influences that shaped the author's perspective and arguments.

**3. True or False: In a critical analysis, identifying a 'logical fallacy' means the author's overall conclusion must automatically be considered false.**

**Answer:** B) False

A logical fallacy means the reasoning to reach the conclusion is flawed, but the conclusion itself might still be true; the argument simply fails to prove it.

**4. When assessing a scientific argument presented in a popular magazine, which of these represents the highest level of critical evaluation?**

**Answer:** C) Synthesize the data provided with findings from peer-reviewed journals to identify discrepancies.

Synthesis—comparing information across multiple high-quality sources—is a high-level critical thinking skill that tests the validity of information.

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**5. A critical reader notices that an author frequently omits any mention of the economic costs of a proposed policy. This strategic omission is known as \_\_\_\_\_ and indicates an attempt to shape the reader's perception.**

**Answer:** C) cherry-picking

Cherry-picking (or selective representation) involves highlighting only the data that supports a claim while ignoring evidence that contradicts it.

**6. True or False: Annotating a text by only underlining interesting sentences is considered an advanced form of critical reading.**

**Answer:** B) False

Advanced critical reading requires active interrogation, such as writing questions, noting connections, and challenging claims in the margins.

**7. Read this claim: 'The implementation of AI in classrooms will inevitably destroy the student-teacher bond.' What is the most significant critical flaw in this argument?**

**Answer:** B) It relies on a slippery slope fallacy without providing empirical evidence of the 'inevitable' outcome.

The claim assumes a catastrophic chain of events ('will inevitably destroy') without demonstrating a causal link, a hallmark of the slippery slope fallacy.

**8. When examining an author's \_\_\_\_\_, a reader analyzes the underlying assumptions that the author takes for granted as being true without providing explicit proof.**

**Answer:** B) presuppositions

Presuppositions are the unspoken beliefs or 'pre-packaged' truths that form the foundation of an argument.

**9. Which of the following questions promotes the most 'evaluative' level of reading regarding a text about global trade?**

**Answer:** C) Whose voices or perspectives are specifically excluded from this discussion of profit?

Looking for 'silences' or excluded perspectives is an advanced critical skill that identifies bias and the scope of an argument's worldview.

**10. True or False: Using a 'hermeneutic of suspicion' means a reader approaches a text by assuming the author is intentionally lying.**

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**Answer:** B) False

It actually means looking beneath the surface of the text to find hidden meanings or power structures, not necessarily assuming the author is being dishonest.