

## Student Handout (Close Reading Exercise #1, Passage A)

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

### Phase 1: Close Reading Marks (about 10 minutes)

Read Passage A three times. On each pass, perform the following tasks:

1. **Underline** all **emotionally charged words** or metaphors (e.g., words that provoke fear, nostalgia, or anger).
  2. **Circle** all **qualifiers and hedges** (e.g., words that limit a claim or express uncertainty).
  3. **Draw a star [★]** at any point where you detect a **shift in tone** (e.g., from objective to urgent, or from cynical to fearful).
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### Phase 2: Analysis Questions (15 Minutes)

**1. The Weight of Words** Look at the words you underlined. Choose two and explain what specific emotion the author is trying to evoke in the reader.

- Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ | Effect: \_\_\_\_\_
- Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_ | Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. The Power of Hedges** The author uses qualifiers like "*somewhat*," "*arguably*," and "*might*." Why do you think they included these instead of making absolute statements? Does it make them seem more or less trustworthy?

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**3. Tonal Shifts** Describe the tone at the beginning of the passage versus the tone at the end. What specific sentence marks the transition into a more "alarmist" or "urgent" voice?

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**4. The "Invisible" Argument** How does the author use the metaphor of an "*existential earthquake*" to frame the entire debate before they even provide a single fact?

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