

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).

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?

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?

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?
