Short End of Class Quiz: Close Reading #1

Quiz: Rhetorical Analysis & Close Reading

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. In Passage A, the author uses the phrase "existential earthquake." What is the primary rhetorical function of this metaphor?

A) To provide a scientific comparison of how data centers affect the environment.

B) To frame the technological shift as a sudden, uncontrollable disaster.

C) To suggest that LLMs will help geologists predict seismic activity. D) To use a qualifier to soften the author's controversial stance.

2. Both passages use the word "arguably." Why do the authors likely include this specific qualifier?

A) To signal that they are unsure of their own main point.

B) To invite the reader to start a literal argument in the comments section.

C) To make a subjective opinion appear more like a reasoned, debatable claim.

D) To show that the passage was written by an AI that lacks certainty.

3. In Passage B, the author refers to "mundane drudgery." What emotional response is this intended to trigger in the reader?

A) A feeling of guilt for using AI tools.

B) A sense of exhaustion with current work and a desire for "liberation."

C) Confusion regarding the technical definition of "drudgery."

D) Fear that the reader will lose their job to a machine.

(**Turn Page Over)**

4. Compare the "Tone Shift" in both passages. Which statement best describes how both authors pivot their argument?

A) They both start with a call to action and end with a scientific definition.

B) They both begin by discussing the technology and shift to addressing the moral or social implications.

C) They both start with an angry tone and shift to a more hopeful, optimistic tone.

D) They both use the middle of the paragraph to introduce a list of statistical facts.

5. Which word from the passages is used to make a bold prediction feel like a "fair" observation?

A) "Catastrophic" (Passage A)

B) "Hurtling" (Passage A)

C) "Admittedly" (Passage B)

D) "Breathtaking" (Passage B)

Quiz Answer Key (For Instructor)

1. **B** – It sets a "catastrophic" frame for the rest of the argument.
2. **C** – Qualifiers are "rhetorical shields" that make opinions feel more like scholarly observations.
3. **B** – By labeling current work as "drudgery," the author makes the AI solution feel like a rescue.
4. **B** – Both authors use the first half to define the "what" and the second half to argue the "so what."
5. **C** – "Admittedly" is a concession; it makes the author seem objective by acknowledging a potential downside before moving back to their main point.