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Mood	diction
Conciseness	critique
Bias	main idea
Context	clarity
Tone	theme

Ten Words in Context

In the space provided, write the letter of the meaning closest to that of each **boldfaced** word. Use the context of the sentences to help you figure out each word's meaning.

- conciseness** * Mary received praise for the **conciseness** of her persuasive paper. In just two pages she was able to convince the teacher that homework should not be given on the weekends.

* Some teachers ramble on, but Mr. Sweat is known for his **conciseness**. He gets straight to the point and doesn't digress from his topic.

a. sloppiness b. strength c. brevity
- clarity** * Politicians often lack **clarity** in their speeches. They beat around the bush instead of giving a straight answer.

* It is important that the directions for assembling the bike are written with **clarity**. Failing to make the directions easy to understand may create major safety issues for the bike rider.

a. clear b. confusion c. humility
- context** * President Bush was mad when his words, "I hate nature" were taken out of **context**. What he really said was, "I hate when nature's destructive forces leave people desolate and homeless."

* A reader must look at the **context** of the sentence to determine if the word "snake" is being used to describe an animal or a person's sneaky personality.

a. surrounding words b. attitude c. strength
- critique** * The editor's **critique** of *To Kill a Mockingbird* said that Scout's use of language was too elevated for a six year old.

* Though the class liked reading the book *Speak*, their one **critique** was that the author never wrote what the school's final mascot was.

a. hope b. assessment c. fear
- diction** * Sometimes the book *Fahrenheit 451* is hard to understand because the **diction** includes the author's stream of consciousness instead of just writing about the character's actions.

* Using clear **diction** helps those who read your paper have a better understanding of what you're trying to say.

a. words b. speech c. facts

6. **tone** * Shakespeare expresses a satirical **tone** towards Romeo, often mocking his foolish decisions and making him out to be a love-sick puppy.
* It was clear that Jeremy did not support a woman's right to choose because the **tone** in his paper was very chastising toward abortion doctors.
- a. thought b. attitude c. language
7. **bias** * After her car accident, Julie felt **bias** against drunk drivers and lobbied lawmakers to create tougher penalties for those who drink and drive.
* The democrat gave a **biased** speech praising Hillary Clinton's work to help the environment, but said nothing about John McCain's efforts to stop global warming..
- a. neutral b. prejudiced c. confused
8. **theme** * Too much pride can lead to one's downfall is just one of the **themes** conveyed in the epic poem *Odyssey*.
* In the original *Little Red Riding Hood*, the wolf eats the girl at the end. The **theme** was to trust no one.
- a. sentences b. fears c. message
9. **mood** * Sherry was thankful for the compassionate **mood** of her mother's letter. After their big fight, Sherry had been afraid her mother would never forgive her.
* The poem evoked a **mood** of anger in the 9th graders. Reading about the abuse slaves suffered from a first-person perspective made the poem very powerful.
- a. emotion b. thought c. desire
10. **main idea** *The **main idea** of the Comet Code is to do what is expected of you.
* The first half of the paper explained in detail several risks of eating high-fat food, which included high blood pressure and diabetes. It was clear the **main idea** of the paper was that high-fat foods can cause many health problems..
- a. attitude b. focus c. belief

Matching Words with Definitions

1. _____ clear in thought; easy to understand
2. _____ the author's choice of words and their arrangement
3. _____ the prevailing feeling or emotion evoked in the reader
4. _____ expressing a great deal in just a few words; clear and succinct
5. _____ a universal idea that expresses the message conveyed in literature
6. _____ an assessment expressing critical comments about literature
7. _____ a belief or preference stemming from personal experiences or prejudice, that inhibits impartial judgment
8. _____ the key point or focus of a piece of literature
9. _____ the author's attitude toward a subject
10. _____ the parts of a written or spoken statement that precede or follow a specific word or passage, usually influencing its meaning or effect