Name:

Date:

Critical Skills Assignment

Critical Reading and Argument Writing (C)

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

How Do I Get There?

(1) When Christopher Columbus set out on his voyage across the Atlantic in search of Asia, he didn't use an accurate map. And he certainly didn't have a GPS (global positioning system). Columbus used a map that was made by Ptolemy. Ptolemy was a cartographer who lived during the time of the Roman Empire. A cartographer is a person who draws maps. Instead of finding a route to Asia, Columbus ended up in what became the Americas. Today, travelers have two ways to find their way around—a paper map or a GPS.

(2) Some people use a GPS because they find it more convenient and less unwieldy than a stack of maps. When a driver keys in a destination, a pleasant voice directs the user to his or her destination. A map, on the other hand, has to be unfolded several times and spread out. This is difficult to do while driving. The map also doesn't voice the directions to the driver or recalculate if the driver makes a mistake.

A History of Road Maps

(3) In the early part of the twentieth century, Henry Ford produced automobiles that were affordable for the average American. There weren't many paved roads. The interstate highways we have today did not exist. Instead, there was an informal network of auto trails. They had names, such as Old Oregon Trail or Lincoln Highway. These trails were marked with colored bands on telephone poles. Travelers used them as guides to navigate.

(4) When more people began buying cars and the roads improved, drivers needed help finding their way. In 1911, AAA (American Automobile Association) began publishing its own maps. These early maps were in black and white. They had narrative route descriptions, such as "3 corners just beyond small stone bridge at foot of grade, turn right" or they were photo guides. Some maps existed, but without route numbers they were not much help to drivers.

(5) A system of numbered U.S. highways eventually replaced the auto trails. In 1917, Wisconsin was the first state to post signs. In the 1920s, color was used on maps to show the best roads. Major routes in good condition were often highlighted in red on maps. But this didn't necessarily mean they were paved. In 1926, U.S. highway designation signs were posted on many roads. These replaced the colored bands from the named highways. A route from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Los Angeles, California, called Arrowhead Trail became US 91. The color of major highways on maps often corresponded with the pole markings used previously on the named roads. Paved roads were indicated with hash marks.

(6) During the Great Depression in the 1930s, the Work Projects Administration (WPA) employed unskilled and unemployed men and women to work on many public works projects. These included building

bridges, roads, public buildings, parks, and airports. The WPA also created murals and sculptures to decorate public buildings around the nation. More than \$4 billion was spent on highway, road, and street projects alone. During U.S. involvement in World War II, from 1941–1945, gasoline was rationed, so people couldn't drive their cars very far. After the war, gas rationing ended. With the financial boom in the 1950s, more people could afford to buy cars. The roads were paved and highways were clearly labeled. People were ready to travel.

(7) With more people on the roads traveling greater distances, road maps became a necessity. Many oil companies published maps that were free with a fill-up at gas stations. People usually stored maps in a car's glove compartment. In the 1960s, interstate highways were built that bypassed towns, allowing travelers to avoid traffic lights. Maps were updated annually, showing interstates under construction and those that had been completed. By the end of the 1960s, maps were in full color. In the 1970s, people traveled less because of fuel shortages. In the 1980s, oil companies stopped giving out free maps. People can now get a free highway map through a state's department of transportation or tourism by downloading one online, sending away for one, or stopping at a state visitors' center to pick one up. Also, AAA gives free maps to its members.

Using Maps

(8) The department of transportation in each state usually creates a map of its state. AAA also creates and distributes maps that cover one state. But some AAA maps display two or more states in close proximity to each other, such as Kentucky and Tennessee. Maps have an index of cities and destinations. Each location in the index has its own grid reference, usually a letter and a number. The map itself has grid lines so a user can easily locate a desired destination. Major highways are shown in thicker lines or bolder colors. Minor highways have thinner lines.

(9) There are pros and cons to using a GPS or a map to navigate. One of the best things about a paper map is users can see a whole area at once. It gives them a big picture of where they are and where they are headed. At a glance, users can see what landmarks or attractions are along the route to their destination. It will even show alternate routes drivers may want to take. Maps are affordable, portable, and don't have to be powered to be used. They can also serve as a backup when a GPS fails. Some consider maps artistically appealing and even collect them.

(10) Since people began using GPS, there has been a decrease in the demand for maps. In 2005, AAA had 250 maps to choose from. In 2013, about 150 maps were available from AAA. Washington State stopped printing maps in 2009 because of budget shortages. But in 2010, despite the decrease in demand for maps, AAA members around the country still requested more than 14 million paper guides.

Navigating with GPS

(11) The global positioning system was designed and built by the U.S. Department of Defense. The idea for it was conceived at the Pentagon in 1973. It was first launched in 1978 and fully operational by the mid-1990s. It is a navigational system that uses a network of 24 satellites orbiting in space. Global positioning system satellites circle the earth twice daily. They transmit two low-power radio signals to earth. Receivers take this information and calculate the user's location. President Bill Clinton gave a directive in March 1996 that GPS be made available to the public for free.

(12) Some people prefer using a GPS because it is convenient. It doesn't take up a lot of space, and it won't get torn or lost like a map. Many cars come equipped with one and they are available as apps on

smartphones. A GPS is loaded with detailed maps. It gives a visual of one's location, tells the direction the driver is heading, and where and when to turn. It displays the arrival time, warns of any road delays, and even displays the driving speed.

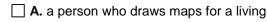
(13) But there are some downsides to using a GPS. A GPS screen displays only the small area in which one is traveling. Unlike a map, it doesn't provide a visual picture of where one is in relation to one's destination. Even with updated maps installed in a GPS, sometimes it will direct people to roads that are no longer open. The Death Valley National Park's website warns visitors not to depend on their vehicle's GPS to navigate. Some travelers in the park have been directed to the wrong location or to closed roads. In several cases, GPS has directed people down roads that are closed in the winter because of heavy snow. Sometimes a GPS won't recognize an address. The user won't be able to input it into the system for directions.

(14) A GPS may lose its satellite signal and become inoperative. Atmospheric conditions, temperature, pressure, or humidity may cause calculation and accuracy errors in the satellite network. A GPS may fail when something gets in the line of sight between the GPS and the satellite network. It could be mountains, tall buildings, or dense foliage. And many times the batteries die.

(15) Whichever method you take to navigate your trip, it's always best to know where you're going. To be safe, have a backup navigational tool. And always stop and enjoy the landmarks and beautiful scenery along the way.

Choose answers to multiple choice questions. Type responses to questions that ask you to write a response. Be sure to save your work.

1. What is meant by GPS as described in Paragraph 2?



- **B.** a bulky stack of printed maps
- **C.** an automated system that gives directions
- D. an established network of roads used by vehicles

Teacher feedback: Score:

- **2.** Answer the questions about the passage.
 - (a) Which statement best describes the main idea of "How Do I Get There"?

A. Highways signs make it easier for people to find their way.

B. Maps give users a big picture of the area in which they travel.

C. GPS voiced directions make finding one's way easier when traveling.

D. People can use maps or a GPS to find their way when traveling.

Teacher feedback:

(b) Which sentence from the passage best supports the answer in Part (a)?

☐ A. In the early part of the twentieth century, Henry Ford produced automobiles that were affordable for the average American. (Paragraph 3)

B. Today, travelers have two ways to find their way around—a paper map or a GPS. (Paragraph 1)

C. Many cars come equipped with one and they are available as apps on smartphones. (Paragraph 12)

D. At a glance, users can see what landmarks or attractions are along the route to their destination. (Paragraph 9)

Teacher feedback: Score:

3. Analyze how the author illustrates the changes in road maps over time.

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

4. How does the author develop the argument about using a GPS? Is the argument effective? Why or why not?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Cozying Up with a Good Book

(1) The printing press was invented by Johannes Gutenberg, a German goldsmith, in 1440. At first it had replaceable wooden letters. Later, metal letters made typesetting faster. This made books, newspapers, and magazines more affordable. In 1998 the first electronic readers were developed. Amazon.com, an online bookstore, released the Kindle in 2007. The use of e-readers then became commonplace.

Advantages of E-readers

(2) E-readers have many conveniences. Thousands of books can be stored in these thin, lightweight, electronic pads, making them great for traveling. Books can be downloaded at any time from any place there is Wi-Fi. E-books are often less expensive than printed books. Users also have the option of downloading books from the library. Books are easy to navigate in an e-reader. Users are able to search for particular things in a text. Writers are able to self-publish their own e-books and sell them online. The best thing about e-readers is that they are fairly "green." According to a study by the Cleantech Group of San Francisco, e-readers may help improve the sustainability and environmental impact of the publishing industry. The book and newspaper industries were responsible for harvesting 125 million trees in 2008. The carbon an e-book releases over the life of the device is offset after the first year because the user didn't buy as many printed books.

(3) A study at the Center for Literacy at the University of Akron showed that animation and audio in e-books helped young children identify printed words. A kindergarten teacher in Napa Valley, California, found that words highlighted and defined in e-books helped increase her students' vocabulary. Children who use an e-reader can pick books at their skill level that interest them. Visual learners often find the gadgets of e-readers appealing, too. They become engrossed with the books they read.

Advantages of Printed Books

(4) Despite the benefits of e-readers, many people still prefer to read printed books. They like the tactile feel of real books. The text is easier to read because there's no glare. Readers enjoy turning the pages and watching as the left side of the book grows thicker as they read through the story. Some people even love the smell of books, both new and old. Real books can be sold or passed on to future generations. They can be autographed by the author. None of these benefits is possible with digital books. Many bibliophiles enjoy showing off the titles and number of books stacked in bookcases in their homes. Personal libraries share information about their owner's interests and what is important to them. Printed books can be read anywhere, even by candlelight during a power outage. A book can even show signs of its sentimental value to its owner. Perhaps it is dog-eared from use, inscribed, or favorite passages are marked off and noted.

(5) Babies learn about books by holding board books with bright, colorful pictures of objects. Parents read picture books to their children. Soon children learn to read these books on their own. They learn to hold them in the correct direction and to flip the pages from left to right. Children can also share their favorite books with their friends. According to Julia Parish-Morris, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, children who are cuddled while being read to helps them associate reading with nurturing. Parish-Morris studied how young children interact with e-books and found that print books were better for

preschoolers and kindergartners. She discovered that with e-books parents focus more on what the child is doing with the device rather than talking about the story. Lisa Guernsey, director of the early education initiative at the New America Foundation, found that when young children read print books, they concentrate on the content of the story. The music and animation on e-books can be distracting.

Disadvantages of E-readers and Print Books

(6) E-readers provide readers many benefits, but there are some drawbacks. E-readers can be expensive. In addition to the cost of the e-reader, there's the cost of e-books. They can cost anywhere from 99 cents to \$11.99. According to Digital Book World, as of March 2014, the average cost of an e-book was \$7.49. E-readers need to be charged regularly. If the battery runs down and the power goes out while reading an exciting story on an e-reader, the user will have to wait until the power comes back on to recharge the e-reader. There's no ink to smell or turning pages to feel. E-books cannot be wrapped and given as a gift to a friend. And not all books can be lent to a friend either. If one likes to read in bed, an e-book isn't soft enough to fall asleep on or to toss on the floor. Some books just won't work well in an electronic format, such as some children's books and some kinds of textbooks.

(7) Print books have disadvantages also. They can be heavy and sometimes bulky. Lugging around several books can be inconvenient when traveling. Print books take up a lot of space on bookshelves. When a person moves, it often takes lots of boxes and a great deal of time to pack them up.

(8) Publishing a new book and distributing it can be costly. This is reflected in the sales price. Printed books have the highest per-unit carbon footprint, which means the impact they have on the environment. To publish a book, it takes raw materials, paper production, printing, shipping, and disposal of the books. About 25–36 percent of books a bookstore receives are not sold. They are shipped back to the publisher and are either burned, thrown away, or recycled.

(9) Some people will never use an e-reader as long as print books are available. Others will still buy print books. But they may also use e-readers when they travel or want to download a book right away. And some people will continue to check books out of the library because it is free and eco-friendly.

Choose answers to multiple choice questions. Type responses to questions that ask you to write a response. Be sure to save your work.

- 5. Answer the questions about the passage.
 - (a) What is the author's purpose in "Cozying Up with a Good Book"?
 - A. to inform readers that e-readers are great to use while traveling
 - **B.** to explain why some people still prefer to read printed books
 - **C.** to explain the pros and cons of printed books and e-book readers
 - D. to inform readers that printed books have a high per-unit carbon footprint

Teacher feedback:

(b) Which sentences from the passage support the answer in Part (a)?

Choose exactly two answers that are correct.

A. In 1998 the first electronic readers were developed. (Paragraph 1)

B. Despite the benefits of e-readers, many people still prefer to read printed books. (Paragraph 4)

C. The printing press was invented by Johannes Gutenberg, a German goldsmith, in 1440. (Paragraph 1)

D. E-books are often less expensive than printed books. (Paragraph 2)

E. Later, metal letters made typesetting faster. (Paragraph 1)

F. Amazon.com, an online bookstore, released the Kindle in 2007. (Paragraph 1)

Teacher feedback: Score:

6. How does Paragraph 5 contribute to the development of the author's main ideas?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

7. How does the author develop the argument about book publishing? Is the argument effective? Why or why not?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

8. Why would some people prefer to read books on an e-reader?

Use details and inferences that you make from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Today's Headlines

(1) Americans have been reading newspapers for more than three centuries. But with the arrival of radio, TV, and now the Internet, that has all changed. The *Boston News-Letter* was the first continuously published U.S. weekly newspaper. It was first published on April 24, 1704 by John Campbell, who was a bookseller and postmaster in Boston, Massachusetts. Station 8MK in Detroit, Michigan, broadcast the first U.S. radio news program on August 31, 1920. The very first regularly scheduled TV news broadcast was on February 21, 1940. It was anchored by Lowell Thomas and aired at 6:45 p.m. weeknights.

(2) When the Internet became available in 1995, many newspapers began posting versions of their newspaper online. Many people began reading the news online. So they stopped their subscriptions to print newspapers. The newspapers soon began reducing the size of their papers and staff. Classified ads accounted for 70 percent of the ad revenue for newspapers. When Craigslist went live in 1996, most ads were free. Only employers who post job ads and realtors posting apartment rentals pay a fee. Free online service greatly affected the profits newspapers made. Many newspapers have shut down completely. And more will in the near future. But some people still prefer to read a printed newspaper.

Print Newspapers

(3) The front page of newspapers is designed to catch readers' attention. The prominent placement of a story on the front page with a bold headline indicates the story's importance. A large photograph often accompanies the main article. Or a photograph cues readers to another important article on the front page. Photo captions often provide additional information. Articles on the front page are continued on an inside page where readers can finish reading the rest of the story. Newspapers are usually divided into sections. Each section is generally labeled with sequential letters, such as A, B, C, etc. This makes it easier for readers to locate different sections, such as the entertainment, business, or sports sections. The Sunday edition of many newspapers often includes a magazine and book review section as well as local retail ads and coupons.

(4) Newspaper design helps readers' eyes and brains scan headlines and select which articles are of interest to them. The layout helps in this selection, and the typeface, letter spacing, line length, margins, and page size make reading easier. All of this gives people's eyes a chance to focus. Newspapers are portable. They can be folded and tucked into a purse or briefcase. Readers can flip back and forth from one page to another to check something that was said at the beginning of an article. Newspaper articles are often indepth. A sidebar is often included with a story that relates to the longer article. Some feature articles are written as a series. Each part in a series often appears on the same day of the week over a period of weeks.

(5) People often subscribe to the newspaper. It is delivered to their home each day. Newspapers can also be purchased at newsstands, in grocery stores, convenience stores, or from vending machines.

Online Newspapers

(6) Online newspapers are easily accessed on the Internet by typing in the URL or the name of the paper. Because web sites can be updated quickly, news stories can be posted as an event happens. Online

newspapers can also be updated immediately with any new developments in existing stories. But print newspapers report only the news that occurred up to the time of printing. Any breaking news will not be included until the next edition of the paper. While there's a charge for printed newspapers, most online newspapers are free. Articles appearing in scrolling windows are often carried over to another screen. These can be accessed by clicking the following page number or *Next* to see the rest of the article. Online articles can be searched for topics or keywords. People can access their local newspaper when they travel, or read as many newspapers as they'd like.

Print vs. Online

(7) Print and online newspapers each have their advantages. But there are disadvantages as well. One journalist noticed that the layout of online newspapers caused him to unintentionally ignore several worthy stories. Studies have shown that people retain more when they read a printed newspaper instead of an online version. Researchers at the University of Oregon gave one group a print edition of the *New York Times*. Another group received the Web version of the *Times*. Each group was given 20 minutes to read and then took a short survey. The results showed that the print readers remembered significantly more news stories than online news readers. Print readers also recalled more topics than online news readers and more of the main points of news stories. Both groups, however, were able to recall headlines.

(8) Some people find it difficult to finish a news article online that is longer than 1,000 words. People have become used to scanning text online. They read a few sentences here and there and look for keywords. Then they move on. Maryanne Wolf, a Tufts University cognitive neuroscientist, and other neuroscientists are becoming concerned that people are developing digital brains. That means that people are skimming through an overabundance of online information. The neuroscientists feel this kind of reading is competing with people's deep-reading ability. Not only are people skimming and scanning text, but they are distracted by the dings of e-mail and social media notifications.

(9) The brain reads in a linear way when reading print. Even with some pictures there are fewer distractions. Printed newspapers also give readers the ability to remember where in the text a particular article is simply by its layout. For example, a reader may know that the article about a broken water main in a local neighborhood is on the bottom left-hand corner of an inside page on the right side in the Local News section.

(10) People have become used to the short sentences in online text. Some people are finding it difficult to read long, complex sentences used by classic authors. In fact, Maryanne Wolf has heard from several English department chairs that their students are having trouble reading classic literature.

Broadcast News

(11) Many people get their news from TV news broadcasts or from the radio. Television and radio news broadcasts tend to be short and give only the main facts. News programs on TV sometimes include videos or pictures. Radio news sometimes includes audio. Most radio news spots are brief—about five minutes. However, there are some news-only radio stations. They provide news around the clock. Most major TV network stations provide a brief story on international news, but mostly give local news. Network TV news programs last a half hour and include local weather and traffic reports. Cable networks, such as CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC often provide more in-depth coverage. Many times, commentators on these cable networks provide their own views on events.

(12) The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press conducted a survey of 3,003 adults in 2012. It found that 55 percent of people watched a news program on television. Only 23 percent said they read a print newspaper. And only 33 percent listened to the news on the radio.

(13) People can get the news from a newspaper, online, the TV, or from radio. What is important is for people to be informed on what is happening in the world, both locally and internationally.

Choose answers to multiple choice questions. Type responses to questions that ask you to write a response. Be sure to save your work.

- 9. Answer the questions about the passage.
 - (a) What is the author's opinion in "Today's Headlines"?
 - A. People are giving up newspapers for other sources of news.
 - **B.** Online newspapers need to provide more in-depth stories.
 - **C.** People retain more information from reading online newspapers.
 - **D.** Most news articles are too long to hold people's interest.

Teacher feedback:

(b) Which sentences from the passage support the answer in Part (a)?

Choose exactly two answers that are correct.

☐ A. Each part in a series often appears on the same day of the week over a period of weeks. (Paragraph 4)

B. Many people began reading the news online. (Paragraph 2)

C. Some people find it difficult to finish a news article online that is longer than 1,000 words. (Paragraph 8)

D. Some people are finding it difficult to read long, complex sentences used by classic authors. (Paragraph 10)

E. Each group was given 20 minutes to read and then took a short survey. (Paragraph 7)

F. Many people get their news from TV news broadcasts or from the radio. (Paragraph 11)

Teacher feedback: Score:

10. How does the author show that print newspapers are easier to read than online versions?

Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

11. How does the section Broadcast News contribute to the development of the author's main ideas?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

12. Explain how the ideas presented in "Cozying Up with a Good Book" and "Today's Headlines" are alike and how they are different.

Use details from each text for each comparison.

Type your answer here:

Teacher feedback: Score:

13. Read this paragraph Dylan wrote about his grandfather's mapmaking.

My grandfather was a mapmaker. He learned the art and science of cartographie while he was in college. When he graduated, he got a job making maps for one of the oil companies. He told me it was the most fascinating job he ever had.

Which is the correct spelling of cartographie in the first sentence?

A. (cartograffie	3
B. (cartograffy	,

C. cartography

D. carttographie

Teacher feedback: Score:

14. Read this paragraph Madison wrote about her dad and an e-reader.

My dad bought an e-reader only to give it to me because he didn't like the feel of them. He said he prefers the soft feel of a book and misses turning the pages.

Which sentence is the **best** revision of the first sentence?

A. My dad bought an e-reader only to give them to me because he didn't like the feel of it.

B. My dad bought an e-reader only to give it to me because he didn't like the feel of they.

C. My dad bought an e-reader only to give their to me because he didn't like the feel of them.

D. My dad bought an e-reader only to give it to me because he didn't like the feel of it.

Teacher feedback: Score:

15. Read this paragraph Marshall wrote about AAA and maps.

After Henry Ford produced cars that Americans could afford, people needed maps to find their way. The AAA began publishing maps. The maps itself were in black and white. They had narrative route descriptions instead of a visual illustration of the routes.

Which sentence is the **best** revision of the third sentence?

A. The maps itselves were in black and white.

B. The maps itselve were in black and white.

C. The maps themselves were in black and white.

D. The maps themself were in black and white.

Teacher feedback: Score:

16. Read this paragraph Claire wrote about her little sister and books.

Every night I've been reading to Charlotte my baby sister before she goes to bed. She loves when I read to her. We get under the covers and snuggle. Even though she knows all the words to the story, she never gets tired of hearing *Goodnight Moon*.

Which revision of the first sentence is punctuated correctly?

A. Every night, I've been reading to Charlotte, my baby sister before she goes to bed.

B. Every night I've been reading to Charlotte, my baby sister, before she goes to bed.

C. Every night I've been reading to Charlotte, my baby sister before, she goes to bed.

D. Every night I've been reading to Charlotte my baby sister, before she goes to bed.

Teacher feedback: Score:

17. Read this paragraph Shelia wrote about her newspaper route.

I've had a paper route in my neighborhood for the past two years. But I've noticed that I'm slowly losing customers. Yesterday, the Ortegas told me that they want to stop delivery at the end of the month. I thought it was me service, but they said they like to get them news from the paper's website.

Which sentence is the **best** revision of the last sentence?

A. I thought it was my service, but they said they like to get theirs news from the paper's website.

B. I thought it was mine service, but they said them like to get their news from the paper's website.

C. I thought it was my service, but they said they like to get their news from the paper's website.

D. I thought it was mine service, but they said they like to get them news from the paper's website.

Teacher feedback: Score:

- 18. Write a persuasive essay of at least three paragraphs taking a stand on the use of print materials vs. technical devices. Which is your preference? Explain your choice and the reasons why it is your preference, but acknowledge differing opinions. Use evidence from the texts you have read as well as your own ideas to support your position.
 - (a) Write a cohesive argument of at least three paragraphs.
 - (b) Take a stand on the use of print materials vs. technical devices.
 - (c) Explain your choice and the reasons why it is your preference.
 - (d) Organize your essay in order of importance or logical order.
 - (e) Use relevant evidence from the texts you have read as well as your own ideas to introduce your claim and acknowledge alternate or opposing claims.
 - (f) Support your position about the use of print materials vs. technical devices with logical reasoning and relevant evidence.
 - (g) Use appropriate transitions between sentences and paragraphs to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
 - (h) Use precise language to explain your stand.
 - (i) Provide a strong concluding statement to your essay.

Type your answer here:

Purpose and Content

Score: (of 5) Teacher feedback:

Structure and Organization

Score: (of 5) Teacher feedback:

Language and Word Choice

Score: (of 5) Teacher feedback: **Grammar and Mechanics**

Score:(of 5)Teacher feedback:final Score for Assignment: (of 50)