FIGURE 18.5:
Constructed Response Stems to Stimulate Critical Thinking While Reading Text

1.	What primary methods does the author use to develop and support the arguments? Explain how one or more of the following are used, giving examples. • Mainly facts • Statistical data • Feelings, opinions, intuition • Expert opinions • Definitions
2.	What elements of the author's craft are primarily used to impact the quality of the text? Explain how one or more of the following are used, giving examples. • Analogies, similes, metaphors • Connotation • Technical vocabulary
3.	How effectively does the author maintain objectivity in presenting information? Support your responses by citing examples from the text of the author's objectivity or subjectivity. **Objectivity** • Does the author support arguments from a variety of sources of information? • Do the points the author is trying to make follow each other in logical order? • Is the author's reasoning sound? • Are there facts provided to support each of the claims the author is making? • Are those facts from credible sources? **Subjectivity** • Does the author withhold information? • Does the author stack the deck with only one side of the issue? • Does the author offer only arguments that support one position? • Does the author make assumptions without proving them for the reader?
4.	How effectively does the author present the informed opinion of experts and authorities? Explain by citing examples from the text. • Explain how the author presents evidence from credible sources. • Explain how the author uses quotations and citations. • Explain how the author provides experimental evidence from qualitative or quantitative experiments that support a claim.