

Name _____

Unspoken Beliefs Answer Key

Sample Responses

Passage	Hidden Assumption(s)	Bias / Perspective Shown
1	All students are addicted to phones and unable to focus; banning phones automatically improves learning.	The author assumes technology always harms education and shows a traditional bias favoring face-to-face interaction.
2	Electric cars are always better for the environment; gas car owners don't care about sustainability.	The author generalizes people's motives and displays a strong pro-electric, anti-gas bias.
3	Complaining students are being unreasonable; cafeteria food is acceptable as is.	The author assumes the school's system is fine and dismisses student concerns, showing bias toward authority.
4	Teenagers are lazy; lack of workers is entirely their fault.	The author generalizes about an entire generation and ignores economic or scheduling factors—showing a bias against youth culture.

Teaching Tips:

- Begin by defining *assumption* as “an idea the author believes to be true but doesn't say directly.”
- Model one passage together: underline **opinion phrases**, then ask, “What belief must the author have to write this?”
- Encourage students to look for **generalizations**, **judgments**, or ‘**everyone knows**’ **statements** that often hide assumptions.
- Use a **Think-Pair-Share** format: students identify assumptions individually, then compare interpretations with a partner.