Non-Academic Article Evaluation Questions Worksheet

1. **Content**
   a. What issue(s) are the authors addressing?
   b. What are the main points of the article?
   c. Is the article relevant or not for your purposes? Why?

2. **Authority**
   a. Who are the authors? Can you tell why the authors are qualified to write on this topic?
   b. What type of organization produces this publication (academic, commercial, professional, etc.)? What stake does the organization have in the article’s topic?

3. **Purpose**
   a. Who do you think the authors’ audience is?
   b. What are the authors trying to get across to that audience (i.e. change their mind about something, tell them about something new)? Do the authors accomplish their purpose?
c. How is this article helpful? Does it give you an overview of the topic, support a particular side of an argument, provide detail on a topic, etc.?

4. **Accuracy**
   a. What types of resources do the authors use to support their main points (data, expert testimony, scholarly articles, etc.)?

   b. Do the authors identify where the information supporting their main points comes from? Can you find the original sources yourself based on what the article includes?

   c. Are there spelling, grammar, or formatting errors?

5. **Currency**
   a. When was it published?

   b. How current are the sources?

   c. Is currency important for this topic?