Non-Scholarly Article Evaluation Questions Worksheet

1. **Content**
   a. What issue is the author addressing?

   b. What are the main points of the article?

2. **Authority**
   a. Who is the author? Can you tell why the author is 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 author’s audience is?

   b. What is the author trying to get across to that audience (i.e. change their mind about something, tell them about something new)? Does the author 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 does the author use to support their main points (data, expert testimony, scholarly articles, etc.)?

b. Does the author 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?