Class,

Use this organizational guide to help you in analyzing your article this week.  As you write your analysis, make sure that you are looking at the article and the way the author presented his or her position, not the topic or the position of the author itself.  If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your instructor.  Thanks again!

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| ***If you chose to analyze the elements of thought, it may look like this…*** |

**Elements of Thought in Reasoning**

**Introduction –** *Introduce your article.*

**Purpose –** *What is the central aim of the story?* *Why did reporter write the story?* *Explain.*

**Question –** *What is the writer’s question?* *What problem is the reporter addressing?* *Explain.*

**Information –** *What information is relevant to the problem?* *What data and facts did the article present? Explain.*

**Inferences –** *What conclusion did the writer jump to, based on the facts? Explain.*

**Concepts –** *What line of thinking is the writer using?* *What was the writer’s theme?* *Explain.*

**Assumptions –** *What assumptions is the writer making? What assumptions should the writer not make?* *Explain.*

**Implications –** *What does the writer believe should happen next based on the facts?* *Explain.*

**Point of View –** *How does the writer look at the situation and did he or she consider other points of view?* *Explain.*

**Conclusion** – *What logical fallacies and bias were present in the article?* *Explain.*

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| ***-OR-******If you chose to analyze the intellectual standards, it may look like this…*** |

**Intellectual Standards**

**Introduction –** *Introduce your article.*

**Clarity –** *Could the writer have elaborated or given more examples?* *Explain.*

**Accuracy –** *Was it possible to check on the writer’s facts? Were they true? Explain.*

**Precision –** *Was the writer specific? Could he or she have given more detail?* *Explain.*

**Relevance –** *Is this article relevant to its topic or to society?* *Explain.*

**Depth –** *What are some of the complexities the writer talked about or left out?* *Explain.*

**Breadth –** *Did the writer consider any other points of view? Did he or she look at the issue in any other way?* *Explain.*

**Logic –** *Did the writer make sense? Did the writing flow logically from one paragraph to the next?* *Explain.*

**Fairness –** *Did the writer present enough viewpoints to be fair?**Did the writer**have a vested interest in the article topic?* *Explain.*

**Conclusion** – *What logical fallacies and bias were present in the article?* *Explain.*

References

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Holleman, M. (2014, March 24). *After 25 years, Exxon Valdez oil spill hasn't ended*. Retrieved March 24, 2014, from CNN: http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/23/opinion/holleman-exxon-valdez-anniversary/index.html?hpt=hp\_t4

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