Critical Analysis of Worksheet

1. The main purpose of this article is:
   (State as accurately as possible the author’s purpose for writing the article)

2. The key question that the author is addressing is:
   (Figure out the key question in the mind of the author when s/he wrote the article)

3. The most important information in the article is:
   (Figure out the facts, experiences, data the author is using to support her/his conclusions)

4. The main inferences/conclusions in the article are:
   (Identify the key conclusions the author comes to and presents in the article)

5a. The key concept(s) we need to understand in the article:
   (Figure out the most important ideas you would have to understand in order to understand the author’s line of reasoning)

5b. By these concepts the author means?

6. The main assumption(s) underlying the author’s thinking is/are:
   (Figure out what the author is taking for granted [that might be questioned].)

Adapted from *Critical Thinking: Concepts & Tools* by Paul and Elder
7a. If we take this line of reasoning seriously, the implications are:
   (What consequences are likely to follow if people take the author’s line of reasoning seriously?)

7b. If we fail to take this line of reasoning seriously, the implications are:
   (What consequences are likely to follow if people ignore the author’s reasoning?)

8. The main point(s) of view presented in the article are:
   (What is the author looking at, and how is s/he seeing it?)

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