**ARTICLE ANALYSIS TEMPLATE**

Each reading analysis should follow the format outlined below. You should identify each of the five elements of reasoning. For each element you must evaluate the author’s work. Although several prompts for evaluation are provided, you do not have to address each subquestion, but rather pick one or two that seem most relevant to you. Discussion and analysis of each element should be at least one paragraph, so the final document must be at least five paragraphs in length. Be sure to provide evidence from the text to support your claims.

**For each article/chapter:**

1. The main **purpose** of this article/film is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Here you are trying to state as accurately as possible the author’s purpose for writing the article. What was the author trying to accomplish?)

* Is the purpose of the author well stated or clearly implied? Is the purpose fair?

2. The key **question** that the author/filmmaker is addressing is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Your goal is to figure out the key question that was in the mind of the author when s/he wrote the article. In other words, What was the key question that the article addressed?)

* Is the question well-stated (or clearly implied)? Does the expression of the question do justice to the complexity of the matter at issue (i.e. balance breadth and depth)? Is the question fair?

3. The most important **information** that the author/filmmaker relies on is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (You want to identify the key information the author/filmmaker used, or presupposed, in the article to support his/her main arguments. Here you are looking for facts, experiences, data the author is using to support her/his conclusions).

* Is the information source clear? Do you believe that the author is presenting information accurately and fairly? Does the author explore information with sufficient breadth and depth?

4. The **key concepts** we need to understand in this article/film are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (To identify these ideas, ask yourself: What are the most important ideas that you would have to understand in order to understand the author’s line of reasoning? Then elaborate briefly what the author means by these ideas).

* Does the author/filmmaker clarify key concepts when necessary? Are the concepts accurately presented? Does the author/filmmaker explore a sufficient number of concepts and in sufficient detail? Does the author/filmmaker present the concepts fairly?

5. 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? Here you are to follow out the logical implications of the author’s position. You should include implications that the author states, if you believe them to be logical, but you should do your best thinking to determine what you think the implications are.)

* Does the author/filmmaker consider the implications clearly? Does the author/filmmaker display a sensitivity to the implications and consequences of the position s/he is taking? Does the author/filmmaker consider the implications with sufficient breadth and depth?

6. What are your reactions to this text/film? Here I am looking for a discussion that delves into the depths of the piece. I would like to know how reading/watching this piece influenced your thinking on the topic. I am interested in issues like what you learned that you didn’t know before or how this text/film connects material you’ve learned other places (for example, in another class). High scoring answers will engage with the text/film in a nuanced manner. Superficial reactions that are based on simple assessments such as “I didn’t enjoy this film” or “this article was difficult to read” will earn low scores.