Critical Analysis of an Article

*This worksheet will guide you through a critical reading of articles you find in the news.* *You must complete a worksheet for each source* *you use for an IT Ethics in the News analysis.*

**Initial Review**

In this section, we will determine whether we can use this article. Answer each question by marking “yes” or “no” with an “x” in the appropriate column.

| **Question** | **Yes** | **No** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does the article have a clear date of publication? |  |  |
| Is the date of publication within the past 30 days? |  |  |
| Is the article from a media source listed on the [*Interactive Media Bias Chart*](https://adfontesmedia.com/interactive-media-bias-chart/)? |  |  |

If the answer to **any** of the questions above is **no**, you cannot use the selected article. Stop your analysis and find another article.

**Metadata**

Metadata is simply “data about data.” Please review your selected article and fill out the chart below to the best of your ability.

| **Metadata Item** |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article Title |  |
| Date of Publication |  |
| Source of Article (e.g., “CNN.com”) |  |
| Author(s) |  |
| URL to Article |  |

If you cannot find a date of publication for the article, you cannot use the selected article. Stop your analysis and find another article.

Continues on the next page.

# Interactive Media Bias Chart:

Browse to <https://adfontesmedia.com/interactive-media-bias-chart/> - find the media source from which this article came (e.g., MSNBC) and take a screenshot clearly showing the rating for the media source (remember, the bias rating must be between -20 and +20 for any source, and the reliability rating of the source must be 24 or higher!). Paste the screenshot in the white space, below. Then, proceed to the next page.

If you cannot find the source on the Interactive Media Bias Chart, you cannot use the selected article. Stop your analysis and find another article.

# Ethical Dilemma:

|  |
| --- |
| **1). Summarize the article.** |
|  |
| **2). How is the issue outlined in the article an “ethical” dilemma – is it truly an ethical dilemma, or is it simply a dilemma?**  **Cross-reference and cite concepts discussed in assigned reading up to this point.**  **Note the specific dilemma(s) and how this issue falls within the constraints of the dilemma.** |
|  |

# Continues on the next page.

# Logic and Argument:

|  |
| --- |
| **1). What is the most important information in this article (i.e., what supporting evidence, facts, experience, or data do the authors provide to support their argument)?** |
|  |
| **2). What key concept(s) do we need to understand in this article (i.e., what important ideas do we need to understand to understand the authors’ line of reasoning)?** |
|  |
| **3). What main assumption(s) underly the author’s thinking (i.e., what is/are the author(s) taking for granted that might be questioned)?** |
|  |
| **4). If we take the author’s line of reasoning seriously, what are the implications (i.e., the “so what” – why does the argument matter? Why should be care? What consequences are likely to follow if people take the author’s line of reasoning seriously)?** |
|  |

Continues on the next page.

|  |
| --- |
| **5). What are your reactions to the argument? Are you convinced? Why or why not?** |
|  |
| **6). What questions do you have about this article? Do you need more information? Is part of the argument unclear? Is there something the author/authors hasn’t/haven’t considered? What would you ask the author(s) if you spoke to them?** |
|  |

# Continues on the next page.

# Writing Style:

|  |
| --- |
| **1). How do the authors establish authority? (Think about whether the authors seem knowledgeable. Why or why not? What perspectives, biases, or values appear to have a role in the authors’ argument? Cite specific examples.)** |
|  |
| **2). The key concept(s) we need to understand in the article are: (What important ideas do you need to understand in order to understand the authors’ line of reasoning?)** |
|  |
| **3). How do the authors get your interest? (Think about whether the authors try to get you to identify with them or to care about the subject. Do the authors seem to assume you have particular interests and/or values and use them as the basis for argument? How? Cite specific examples.)** |
|  |

# Opposing Viewpoint(s):

|  |
| --- |
| **1). What are some possible contrasting perspectives to the dilemma outlined in this article?** |
|  |
| **2). Think back to question #1 in the “Writing Style” section. Based on the biases or values you identified, what contrasting view(s) do you need to find to get a contrasting perspective?** |
|  |