Graphic Organizer: **Analyzing Appeals to Science**

As you read, collect your thoughts in the table below. You may not need every box. Or you may need more.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Identifying Science:** What specific scientific studies are referenced in this article? List identifying information, including main claim of study, here. (If possible, identify at least one study that provides a counterargument to the author’s claim. If not, identify how the alternate view is represented.) | |
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2. Evaluating references:** How well can you evaluate the information being provided in the article? Does the author provide a thorough description of the study, including methods? Does the author provide citation information for the study (author and publication names? Dates?). Does the author provide information about scientist affiliations; quality of publication; etc.? How difficult would it be to find the original reference? | |
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **3. Analyzing logic:** How is the study used to promote an argument? For each study, identify any unspoken premises on which the argument depends, and any claims that the study is used to support. Is the link between the study and the claim convincing? | |
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **4. Descriptive Language:** What language does the author use to describe the study? List adjectives associated with the study’s results, along with any other notably descriptive language. | |
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

Review the results of the worksheet. What do you observe about the way science is being used in the article? Is the article a fair review of the science? How is science being used as a persuasive device? What is the persuasive goal?