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Final Assessment: Summary and Response (20%)

By summarizing and responding to the article below (“Booze in the corner store”), you willdemonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the COMM1000 learning outcomes: applying critical reading, critical thinking and critical writing strategies.  
  
The Final Assessment consists of 3 written sections:

1. A summary paragraph
2. Response paragraph 1 (Critical Thinking)
3. Response paragraph 2 (Critical Reflection)

**Part 1: Summary of Article**

The article “Booze in the corner store” was written by John Lorinc and published on September 5, 2024 in the Spacing Toronto magazine. John Lorinc is a journalist and editor whose work has often appeared in the Toronto Star and other publications. The main idea of the article is talking about how the obsolete value reflects the law and how it developed to modern style. For example, until the mid-1970s, the lottery was prohibited as a form of gambling. The government set up a company and let all the profits fund the society and charity events. Make the lottery a positive activity. In conclusion, the piece argues that Ontario’s outdated law that allows the alcohol-selling monopoly should be changed to normalize alcohol sales. Especially when most of the countries in the world have relaxed attitudes toward alcohol.

**Part 2: Response Paragraph 1 – Critical Thinking**

**What can you find out about the author (John Lorinc) and the website (spacing.ca)? Do you believe they are trustworthy? Is the author qualified to write about this topic? Why do you think so (or not)?**

There are several reasons that make me think the author and the website are trustworthy. First, based on the Writers’ Trust of Canada website, it shows that John Lorinc was a realistic person and journalist. He had reported lots of news and publications on politics, government, and smart cities. In the last two years, he won a Balsillie prize for public policy in 2022, the publications writing about dream states and smart cities. The jury from the prize said that Lorinc ”offers a framework for thinking about the future of urban living”. Moving on to the website, Spacing magazine was formed in 2003 by a group of young journalists that specialize in urban issues. Spacing is a credibility magazine that won the gold medal for Best Editorial Package at the 2005 Canadian National Magazine Awards. As science and technology develop, spacing is added to the Internet, and they used the website that was designed to make it easier for the public to read. These publications provide a place for citizens to debate these critical urban issues.

Overall, this information leads me to feel the author and website are trustworthy. The author’s experience and long-term reporting on politics make me believe he is well qualified to write about this topic.

***Part 3: Response Paragraph 2 – Critical Reflection***

***John Lorinc also suggests that people who come from outside Ontario have a different view of alcohol, one that is more accepting of alcohol consumption and sales. Based on your experience of visiting or living in other places, do you think he is correct? Explain why and give examples.***

There are several reasons why I believe people outside of Ontario think differently about alcohol. First, I am from Taiwan. It is an island in the Pacific Ocean and is located near China, Japan, and the Philippines. In my experience, Asian culture views alcohol as a vital component of society, particularly in religious ceremonies. Based on the Stanford Archaeology Center, “the alcohol became a way of connecting with the gods or the ancestors.” It had a significant impact on Asian cultures' social, spiritual, and political landscapes. Furthermore, in the 21st century, many Asian businessmen believe that talking business with alcohol shows a strong and close relationship, and it is considered that it will aid communication and commercial cooperation. There is revenue from the Statista website of the alcoholic drinks market in East Asia from 2019 to 2022, with forecasts until 2027. In 2019, there are 444.46 billion US dollars of value in the alcoholic drinks market, and it will slightly increase to 572 billion a year in 572.17 billion in 2027. Because alcohol culture is popular and shows the positive value in Asia, there are therefore lots of stores offering alcohol that people can more easily purchase.

Overall, in my country and Asia, it is a totally different version of alcohol than Ontario. The alcohol is an essential product for the society and the religious in Asia. I agree with John Lorinc about changing the selling methods and the value of alcohol in Ontario.

***Citation***

1. Lorinc, J. (2024, September 5). Lorinc: Booze in the corner store. Spacing Toronto. <https://spacing.ca/toronto/2024/09/05/lorinc-booze-in-the-corner-store/>
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5. Stanford Archaeology Center. (2019, April 15). Alcohol, Rituals and Spiritual World in Ancient China and Beyond: An interdisciplinary perspective. Stanford Archaeology Center School of Humanities & Sciences. <https://archaeology.stanford.edu/events/conferences/alcohol-rituals-and-spiritual-world-ancient-china-and-beyond-interdisciplinary>
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