Analyzing The Logic of an Article

Your Names: _____.

Title of Article: _____.

Author: _____.

One important way to understand an essay, article or chapter is through the analysis of the parts of the author's reasoning. Once you have done this, you can evaluate the author's reasoning using intellectual standards. Here is a template to follow:

1) The main **purpose** of this article is _____.
(Here you are trying to state, as accurately as possible, the author's intent in writing the article. What was the author trying to accomplish?)

2) The key **question** that the author is addressing is _____.
(Your goal is to figure out the key question that was in the mind of the author when he/she wrote the article. What was the key question addressed in the article?)

3) What does the author want you to believe or accept? The author's **conclusion** is_____.

4) Why has the author come to this conclusion? The **reasons** that support the author's conclusion in this article are _____. (You want to identify the key information the author used in the article to support his/her main arguments. Here you are looking for facts, experiences, and/or data the author is using to support his/her conclusions.)

6)   Identify the **value conflicts** that could lead to agreement or disagreement with the author's point of view._____

7) State 2 **facts** presented._____.

8) State in your own words 2 **opinions** presented. _____.

9 a) 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 pursue the logical implications of the author's position. You should include implications that the author states, and also those that the author does not state.)
9 b) 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?)

10) How **credible** is the author? What are the author's credentials for writing this?
_____.

11) Do you agree or disagree with the author's conclusion? Why or why not?
_____.