EVALUATING ARGUMENT THROUGH CRITICAL READING

Directions: For your potential topic, use the databases to find one article. Then, answer the questions below after reading the text. This may seem like a lot of work, but these are questions you should ask and answer EVERY time you read – especially sources for research writing. The assignment may be typed or hand written. If you hand write your answers, please use lined notebook paper and number your answers. Here is a source discussing digital reading and skimming: https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/25/skim-reading-new-normal-maryanne-wolf

1. What is the title of the text? Who is the author? What is the source of the text?
2. Before reading, consider the title of the text. What do you already know about the topic? What are your assumptions about the topic?
3. What is the name of the source of the text? When was the text published? Who is the author’s intended audience? How do you know who the intended audience is?
4. Who is the author? What are his/her credentials? Is the author associated with any special interest group? What more do you want to know about the author? Is the author credible? Why or why not?
5. What is the author’s claim or thesis?
6. What is the overall tone of the text? What is the author’s bias? What is the author’s purpose?
7. What type of support does the author offer? Facts? Opinions? Which does he/she offer more of? Is the support for his/her argument relevant to his/her claim? How do you know? Is the support for his/her argument adequate? How do you know? Do you have any unanswered questions? If so, what are they?
8. Does the author acknowledge opposing views? Provide one example.
9. Choose one specific quote, cite it using MLA, and provide an opposing argument of your own. Do not use first person.
10. Write a paraphrase of the quote from #9 and cite the paraphrase using MLA.
11. Are you persuaded by the author’s claim? Why or why not?
12. What is your response to the text? (a response is a personal opinion about the text)
13. Create a thesis that could utilize this text as support.
14. Write an MLA 8 bibliographical entry for this text.
15. How long, in total, did you spend reading/viewing the text? Where did you read/view the text? What time of the day did you read/view the text? What distractions did you have while reading/viewing the text? What changes can you make to read more effectively in the future?
16. If you are struggling to comprehend the text, what do you think can help you? Do you think you need to ask a friend to help you explain part of the article? Do you think you need to read it aloud by yourself or with a classmate? Do you think it is best that you go see your instructor or go to the SLC reading lab? Are there any vocabulary words that you are not sure up and that you should look up? Are there some dense sentences that you are overwhelmed by and should paraphrase?