Critical Analysis Worksheet

1. The main purpose of this article or video is:
   (State as accurately as possible the author’s purpose for the article or video)

2. The key question that the author is addressing is:
   (Figure out the key question in the mind of the author when s/he wrote the article or produced the video)

3. The most important information in the article/video is:
   (Figure out the facts, experiences, data the author is using to support her/his conclusions)

4. The main inferences/conclusions in the article/video are:
   (Identify the key conclusions the author comes to and presents)

5a. The key concept(s) we need to understand in the article/video:
   (Figure out the most important ideas you would have to understand in order to understand the author’s line of reasoning)

5b. By these concepts the author means?

6. The main assumption(s) underlying the author’s thinking is/are:
   (Figure out what the author is taking for granted [that might be questioned].)

7a. 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?)

7b. 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?)

8. Which sociological theories were addressed or could be applied to the article or video? Apply & Explain

Adapted from Critical Thinking: Concepts & Tools by Paul and Elder