Critial Evaluation of an Academic Source

(\* This is your paper’s introduction. \*)

**Checklist for Critical Evaluation**

(\* You may simply type your responses after the questions. Interpret the questions in a straightforward manner and do not look for “hidden meaning”. What you conclude is important, but why you reached those conclusions is equally important. \*)

The following checklist can be used to evaluate the scholarly merit of a source. The checklist is based on a model developed by Paul and Elder (2009) .

**Peer Review**

(\* Is the article peer reviewed? Is the article primary, secondary, or tertiary? Double check the meaning of peer review: http://www.capella.edu/interactivemedia/informationLiteracy/interactive/peerReviewedCaptivate/peerReviewed\_wrapper.asp

Double check the meaning of primary, secondary and tertiary articles: http://www.capella.edu/interactivemedia/library/interactive/primary/primary\_wrapper.asp \*)

**Purpose**

(\* What is the author’s main purpose(s) in writing the article? \*)

**Key Question**

**(\*** What is the main question the author is focusing on in this article? \*)

**Important Information**

(\* What is the most important information in the article? \*)

**Conclusions**

(\* What conclusion(s) is the author presenting in the article? \*)

**Key Concepts**

(\* What are the main concepts presented in the article? What information is the author using, and what is its relationship to the purpose? Does the information used appear relevant, significant, valid, and sufficient for the conclusions being drawn? Do you have enough information to determine whether the information is relevant, significant, and valid? \*)

**Assumptions(\*** What unstated assumptions is the author making in the article? \*)

**Implications**(\* What are the implications of the author’s conclusions? In other words, what are the consequences if we take take the author’s line or reasoning or if we ignore it? \*)

**Author’s Point of View**

(\* What is the author’s point of view? Note: "Point of view" is not the author's opinion, purpose, or what the author is concluding, nor is it whether the author is using first, second or third person. It is the role or background from which the author is viewing the issue. For example, if the topic were interest rates, a banker and a borrower would probably see the issue from two different points of view. This is important because it will help to identify any potential biases on the part of the author. \*)

**Problem Areas**

(\* What potential problems do you see in the author's reasoning? What potential problems are there with the author's use of information? What point of view is ignored by this author, or has not been considered in dealing with the issue? \*)

**Summary of Critical Evaluation**

(\* Would you use the article in support of your own writing? Why or why not? What limitations would you place on its use? \*)