Critical Evaluation of an article worksheet

Article details:

1. Authority
   a. What are the authors’ credentials?
   b. Are they associated with a university/professional association?

2. Currency
   a. What is the date of publication?
   b. Has knowledge on this topic been superseded since this date?
   c. When were any statistics / research produced? – Are they still relevant?
3. Citings
   a. How many references does the article have?
   b. How many times has the article been cited? *The database where you found the record may have this information

4. Source
   a. Is the journal peer reviewed?
   b. What can you find out about the journal?
   c. Is it from a reputable academic publisher, a recognisable organisation, and news outlet or government department?
   d. Does the article include original research?

5. Bias
   a. Is the author’s position clear?
   b. Was the author funded or sponsored by an organisation/group/business that might have a vested interest?
   c. Is the writing one-sided? Does it acknowledge other viewpoints? Does it dismiss / ignore alternative opinions?
   d. Have all possible points been thoroughly considered?
6. **Research design** (if appropriate for your subject area)
   a. What was the data collection method?
   b. How many participants / sample size? Is it appropriate?
   c. Is it qualitative or quantitative?
   d. How was the data analysed?
   e. Are there any flaws in the way it has been carried out?
   f. Is it clear and transparent as to how the research was carried out?

7. **What are the Conclusions / Findings?**
   a. Are they consistent with the evidence outlined? Is the evidence given sufficient for you to believe the argument?
   b. Is there a logical structure to the argument and evidence presented?
   c. Are there any alternative conclusions that could be drawn?
   d. Can the findings be generalised to other situations or settings?
## Alternative analysis

Identify the **argument** and the **reasons** and **evidence** used to support this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the argument?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Reason / Evidence 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason given to support the argument</th>
<th>Nature of the evidence</th>
<th>How good is the evidence?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Reason / Evidence 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason given to support the argument</th>
<th>Nature of the evidence</th>
<th>How good is the evidence?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Reason / Evidence 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason given to support the argument</th>
<th>Nature of the evidence</th>
<th>How good is the evidence?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>