

Critical Reading: Assessing Broken Windows

When you read, listen to, or view a selection critically, you are looking beyond your initial reaction to see what other messages are in the selection. Use the chart below to analyze the your group's article about the broken windows theory.

Article Title: _____

Author, Publication, Date: _____

<i>Understanding the Article</i>	
Thesis: What is the article's/author's overall opinion about the broken windows theory?	
Argument: What are the author's main arguments to support his/her above opinion about broken windows?	
Evidence: What evidence do the author and/or publisher use to support their argument? (list examples, studies cited)	
<i>Assessing the Article</i>	
Credibility: Who is the author? What expertise does s/he have on this topic?	
Audience: Who is the intended audience? What type of article is it? (purpose)	
Bias: Do you detect any presentation? Is the author's case made in a balanced manner? (look for exaggeration, emotion, distortion, selective evidence, etc.)	
Generalizations and conclusions: Are generalizations and conclusions supported by reliable evidence?	
Personal opinion: What is your opinion of the author's arguments? How does this article affect your opinion of the broken windows theory?	