Student Handout for Opposing Viewpoint Writing Response

Ebola in ***The Wall Street Journal***’s OPINION section –

**Strategies for responding to opinion articles**

Remember to read the article thoroughly and closely. Do not look for a sentence or a paragraph that you feel might be enough to take on in your response and then begin writing. Read the article from beginning to end, so that you really read and hear what the writer wants you to take away from reading their article.

Ask yourself:

* + Who (what group of people or institutions) or what conditions does this writer believe are at fault for creating the Ebola crisis in the United States and/or in the world?
  + What solutions does this writer propose we take to solve the crisis? (Remember they may not pose a solution, but simply present their opinion about why the crisis developed.)
  + Are you given any information about the writer of the article? If so, how might this writer’s opinion be influenced by his or her credentials and what they do every day in that role? (i.e., Do they work for a public health agency or are they CEO of a hospital system?)
  + Given that ***The Wall Street Journal***’s editorial pages (the OPINION section) are regarded as having a conservative view on the issues, how does this article fit with that worldview? (For example, conservatives are said to believe in an “economic philosophy of prudence in government spending and debt, arguing that a government does not have the right to run up large debts and then throw the burden on the taxpayer.” How might this view influence the writer’s perspective on who should be in charge of solving the Ebola crisis – government agencies or the private sector? On who is to blame for the crisis – politicians who vote to cut funding to government agencies or pharmaceutical companies that did develop vaccines because it did not fit their profit model to do so?)
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