How do you judge if an argument is correct or trustworthy?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluating Arguments: Validity and Reliability Chart**

***Directions:*** *How do you evaluate the validity and reliability of an argument? When presented with opposing (opposite) views on an issue, how do you decide which to agree with? To evaluate pro (for) and con (against) arguments, track the evidence for the following categories.*

***Definitions:*** *evaluate* \_\_ to judge\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *validity* \_\_correct / right\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *reliability* \_\_ \_trustworthiness\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  | “Kaavya Viswanathan: Unconscious Copycat or Plagiarist?” (BLOG p.580-582) | “Kaavya Syndrome” (WEB ARTICLE p.583-586) |
| **CLAIM AND SUPPORT**    (What is the claim? A claim is a statement presented as fact. How is the claim supported? Check that facts, statistics, examples, and quotes from experts have been used.) | 1. p. 580, **Plagiarism can have serious consequences.** The evidence is the firing of journalist, Jayson Blair. |  |
| **LOGIC OF ARGUMENT**  thinking that makes sense  (Check that the author’s reasons make sense and are relevant. Look for logical fallacies, errors in logical thinking which fall into the following categories:  - Circular Reasoning: making statements that look like reasons or conclusions but simply restate the author’s opinion.  - False cause and effect: stating that one event caused another when the two events are not truly related.  - Hasty Generalizations: presenting broad statements as facts when they are actually based on only one or two cases.  - Personal Attacks: focusing on an opponent’s character or judgment rather than the issue. | 1. p.580, No logical fallacies identified - factual logic (logic based on facts) is presented, so far. |  |
| **COMPREHENSIVENESS**  (Check that the writer provides reasons and sufficient evidence to support generalizations, an overall opinion formed from just a few facts or examples, and evaluate how well the writer deals with opposing evidence.) | 1. p.580 No generalizations or opposing evidence has been presented yet. |  |