The Logic of an Article

1) The main **purpose** of this article is ____________________________________________________________.
   a. (State as accurately as possible the author’s purpose for writing the article.)

2) The **key question** that the author addresses is ________________________________________________.
   a. (Figure out the key question, problem, or issue in the mind of the author when he or she wrote the article.)

3) The most **important information** in this article is ________________________________________________.
   a. (Identify the facts, experiences, evidence, and data the author uses to support his or her conclusions.)

4) The main **inferences/conclusions** in this article are ________________________________________________.
   a. (Identify the key conclusions the author draws and presents in the article. One important conclusion is framed as an assertion and is located in the article’s thesis statement.)

5) The key **concept(s)** we need to understand in this article is (are) ________________________________.
   By these concepts the author means ____________________________________________________________.
   a. (Figure out the most important ideas you would have to understand in order to grasp the author’s line of reasoning.)

6) The main **assumption(s)** underlying the author’s thinking is (are) ________________________________.
   a. (Figure out what the author is takes for granted in his or her argument. What must be true in order for other claims or conclusions to be true? What is a “given” in the argument?)

7) If we take this line of reasoning seriously, the **implications** are ________________________________.
   a. (What consequences are likely to follow if people take the author’s line of reasoning seriously?)

8) If we **fail** to take this line of reasoning seriously, the **implications** are ________________________________.
   a. (What consequences are likely to follow if people ignore the author’s reasoning?)

9) The main **point(s) of view** presented in this article is (are) ________________________________.
   a. (What is the author’s stance, position, etc.? What perspectives are shared or are evident in the article?)

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