**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Analyzing Techniques Used by Authors to Engage Reader Interest and Help them Understand Ideas Presented in Informational Texts**

 Authors choose their words carefully and use text features to help readers visualize, make connections, and interpret the information presented. You will be examining the ways an author presents key ideas in an informational article, podcast, or website.

Read & review \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Then write an analysis that tells several different ways – or techniques - the author used to interest readers in the topic and help them understand the information. Use specific examples from the text to explain how these techniques support your opinion and focus.

You can use the graphic organizer to help you plan your critique.

Be sure to:

1. Have an introduction that sets the context: include the title and a few sentences that summarize the central idea of the article. Include the author’s name and publication date (if given).
2. Have a focus that states your opinion about what techniques the author uses effectively to engage readers and help them better understand the information.
3. Have body paragraphs with topic sentences and details to support each new idea. Be sure to explain why you chose the examples you included in your response.
4. Use a variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences.
5. Use transitional words to connect your ideas.
6. Write a conclusion that connects to your focus (opinion) about how effectively the author’s techniques interest and help readers.
7. Use correct punctuation and spelling.

**Use the chart below to organize text references that support your focus. Then use these details and elaboration to write your opinion/critique.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| List ways the author interests you or helps you to understand the topic. Include page numbers or sections where you found your evidence. | How does each example add interest or help you understand the information?  Was it effective?  Why/why not? | How does this example support your focus/opinion/thesis? |
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| **Possible Areas for Analyses of Authors Craft Used in Informational Texts** | | |
| List ways the author interests you or helps you to understand the topic. Include page numbers or sections where you found your evidence. | How does each example add interest or help you understand the information?  Was it effective?  Why/why not? | How does this example support your focus/opinion/thesis? |
| **Text Features**  **Labeled diagrams, tables, graphs, visuals/symbols**  **Captioned photos**  **Headings & Subheadings**  **Inset text, text boxes, side bars, glossary**  **Color, white space, bold, italics, highlighted quote** |  |  |
| **Language Use/Word Choice**  **Precise language**  **Descriptive language Embedded definitions**  **Figurative language**  **Technical Language**  **Literary Devices** |  |  |
| **Discourse Style**  **Formal-Informal**  **Conversational, Q&A, Dialogue, Anecdotes**  **Humor, Satire**  **Repetition**  **Literary/Historic Allusions** |  |  |
| **Rhetorical Devices**  **Pathos – emotional appeal**  **Ethos – expert, credible authority (e.g., legal)**  **Logos – facts, logic**  **Kairos – sense of urgency** |  |  |