Analyzing Logic in Newspapers

Facilitator
- Read the task card to your group
- Make sure everyone gets to share ideas and ask questions

Team Captain
- Make sure all talking stays inside the group
- Keep the group focused on the assignment

Resource Manager
- Get supplies for the group
- Call the teacher over for a group questions
- Make sure everyone knows the question

Recorder/Reporter
- Make sure everyone is writing down important information
- Make sure everyone participates in the group presentation

YOUR TASK
1. Facilitator read the instructions step by step to your group
2. Resource Managers call the teacher over for a checkpoint – make sure everyone in your group can explain the answer!

DIRECTIONS: Read the following newspaper articles and analyze the logic. Does the logic make sense? Ask yourselves:
- What is the claim that the author is making?
- What evidence does the author give to justify the claim?
- Are there any gaps in the author’s logic?

1. The following appeared in the editorial section of a local newspaper: "The librarians in our town's school system have reported that the number of trips that our students make to their school library on a voluntary basis has decreased significantly in recent years. For example, the average seventh-grade student visited the school library five times last year, but four of those visits were part of required classroom activities. This shows that our students are reading less than in the past. To address this problem, our town needs to improve the atmosphere of the libraries so that they will be comfortable places in which to work. If students view the libraries as uncomfortable, then they are unlikely to want to spend much time there."

*** STOP! Resource Manager call the teacher over for a checkpoint ***
2. The following appeared as part of a letter to the editor of a local newspaper: "During her three years in office, Governor Riedeburg has shown herself to be a worthy leader. Since she took office, crime has decreased, the number of jobs created per year has doubled, and the number of people choosing to live in our state has increased. These trends are likely to continue if she is reelected. In addition, Ms. Riedeburg has promised to take steps to keep big companies here, thereby providing jobs for any new residents. Anyone who looks at Ms. Riedeburg's record can tell that she is the best-qualified candidate for governor."

3. The following appeared in a letter to the Grandview City Council from a local business leader: "During last year's severe drought, when the water supply in the Grandview City reservoir fell to an extremely low level, the city council imposed much more rigid water-rationing rules. But just after these rules were imposed, industrial growth in the area declined. This clearly shows that the new rationing rules have hurt industry in Grandview. Therefore, to promote the health of the local economy, the city council should stop water rationing."

*** STOP! Resource Manager call the teacher over for a checkpoint ***