**Evaluating Sources Chart**

As you research your topic individually, you should build a collection of articles that you may cite in your policy brief. To keep track of the articles you find and summarize them as you go, you will complete this chart. For each source you identify as being useful to your research, list important information that you discovered and will use for your paper, as well as important points that might be useful for your literature review. Finally, evaluate each article: what was the purpose of the article? Did you identify a bias from the author? What information was provided, and what was missing? What more do you need to discover?

**As you read through different articles, look to disprove, rather than support, your original idea. If you cannot find proof against your policy brief idea, it is more likely to be successful.**

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| **SOURCE 1**: Article name, author, publication, year, URL (if applicable) |
| What was the article's *thesis* or main idea? |
| Provide a one-paragraph summary of the article. |
| Who is the author of the article, and what do you know about him or her? What kind of authority does he or she have in this subject area? Did you identify a bias from the author? |
| Is the goal of the source to inform? To persuade? To advocate an agenda? To sell something? Are there ads? Do they relate to the site? Is it a commercial site? Governmental? Educational Institution?  |
| What key information provided in the article might prove useful to your research project? What information was missing, and what more do you need to discover? |

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| **SOURCE 2**: Article name, author, publication, year, URL (if applicable) |
| What was the article's *thesis* or main idea? |
| Provide a one-paragraph summary of the article. |
| Who is the author of the article, and what do you know about him or her? What kind of authority does he or she have in this subject area? Did you identify a bias from the author? |
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| What key information provided in the article might prove useful to your research project? What information was missing, and what more do you need to discover? |

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| **SOURCE 3**: Article name, author, publication, year, URL (if applicable) |
| What was the article's *thesis* or main idea? |
| Provide a one-paragraph summary of the article. |
| Who is the author of the article, and what do you know about him or her? What kind of authority does he or she have in this subject area? Did you identify a bias from the author? |
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| What key information provided in the article might prove useful to your research project? What information was missing, and what more do you need to discover? |

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| **SOURCE 4**: Article name, author, publication, year, URL (if applicable) |
| What was the article's *thesis* or main idea? |
| Provide a one-paragraph summary of the article. |
| Who is the author of the article, and what do you know about him or her? What kind of authority does he or she have in this subject area? Did you identify a bias from the author? |
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| **SOURCE 5**: Article name, author, publication, year, URL (if applicable) |
| What was the article's *thesis* or main idea? |
| Provide a one-paragraph summary of the article. |
| Who is the author of the article, and what do you know about him or her? What kind of authority does he or she have in this subject area? Did you identify a bias from the author? |
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