Final Wring Assignment

Directions:

Complete this article evaluator form for EACH of the following two articles regarding

https://www.businessinsider.com/economic-benefits-of-student-debt-forgiveness-2020-12

https://nationalinterest.org/feature/would-student-loan-forgiveness-stimulate-economy-173115

Read each article carefully – twice. The first time read for general understanding, and the second read and take notes on the article. With this preparation, complete the article evaluator below for each article.

Brandon Walters

Article Evaluator 1:

Name of Article: The case for cancelling student debt isn't political - it's practical. Here are the benefits of erasing $1.6 trillion, no strings attached.

Author of Article & brief bio: This article was written by Hillary Hoffower and Madison Hoff who are both write for Business Insider. Hillary writes pieces focusing on the relationship between millennials and the economy. Madison is a junior data reporter and writes stories focused on data. She double majored in journalism and cognitive science at Lehigh University. Prior to Business Insider, she was a reporter and held editor positions, including editor-in-chief, at Lehigh University's newspaper.

Main conclusion(s) of article:

- Student loan forgiveness would be very beneficial to many Americans who are paying student loans.

Main argument(s) to support the conclusion:

- There are many people in the United States who are being negatively impacted by student loans.
- Forgiving $10,000 per borrower could erase debt for millions of people.
- Forgiving student loans could help to boost the economy.
- Forgiving student debt would help to narrow the racial wealth gap.

Main data/evidence supporting the arguments/conclusions:

- The statistics offered show there are 45 million Americans who currently have student loan debt totaling more than $1.7 trillion.
- The chart showing the quarterly household debt shows the effect of the amount of debt borrowers hold.

- Data from fourth quarter 2020 showed that forgiveness of $10,000 per holder would mean complete debt cancellation for 33.6% of people who owe money.
- The opinion of Bharat Ramamurti, a member of the Congressional Oversight Commission, stated that forgiving debt would help the economy by allowing people to save money and purchase other needs.
- The quote from Laura Beamer, lead researcher at the Jain Family Institute, stated "Progress on mitigating wealth inequality is one of the biggest effects of student debt forgiveness." This helped to support the argument that forgiveness would be most beneficial to people of color.
- There is also a statistic showing that about 87% of black students attending four-year colleges take out student loans compared to about 60% of white students. This also supports that black students would benefit the most.

Strengths of Article:

- There are six different experts referenced as sources of information. This shows a wide array of economic experience supporting the conclusions in the article.
- There are many different tables included that all reinforce the arguments and help to clarify the points being made.
- Many different arguments are made that all point back to the main conclusion of the article that loan forgiveness would help many people.
- The data and statistics referenced are all from reliable sources that are much more likely to be trustworthy and accurate.

Weaknesses of article:

- There are some factors never considered by the authors that are important to the topic. For example, the authors never explain how student loan forgiveness would be paid for. This shows it is a very opinionated article with a narrow point of view.
- Also, there are some supporting items that are also opinions. It may be an expert that is supporting the argument, but it is still their opinion and not legitimate proof.

Overall quality of article and amount of BS:

This article is well written and is very broad in how it supports the main conclusion. There are many different experts referenced and they all provide opinions based on years of experience in economics. A large number of supporting statistics are also provided, such as tables and data, that give facts to aid the arguments. Some important factors are not considered that are fundamental to the premise such as how the concept would be paid for. The amount of BS in this article is small because there is a sufficient amount of information and evidence.

Article Evaluator 2:

Name of Article: Would Student Loan Forgiveness Stimulate the Economy?

Author of Article & brief bio: The author of this article is named Rachel Bucchino and she is a reporter for the National Interest. She graduated recently from the University of Maryland with a double major in Journalism and Economics. She previously worked as a News Intern at The Hill, a publication based in Washington, D.C.

Main conclusion(s) of article:

- The idea of forgiving student loan debt would not help in the ways President-Elect Joe Biden claims.

Main argument(s) to support the conclusion:

- Forgiving the student debt would not aid the economy in a major way.
- The debt forgiveness would unfairly target the households with higher income with little impact on lower income households.
- The cost of forgiving student loan debt would outweigh its economic benefits.

Main data/evidence supporting the arguments/conclusions:

- A report from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget stated the benefit for borrowers would not be significant and that it would "increase their available cash by only a fraction of the total loan forgiveness,".
- The statistic stating that high-income households owe near 60% of the student debt supports that loan forgiveness would aid people with higher income more.

Strengths of Article:

- The statistics provided are from reliable sources that are likely to be accurate.
- The article is very specific in how it presents the main conclusion and then supports it with arguments to help make the opinion clear.

Weaknesses of article:

- There are not many statistics included that provide numbers to support the claims being made in the article.
- The article is somewhat short and provides only a few arguments to support the main conclusion. This suggests there may not be many supporting arguments.
- There are some factors that are never considered in the article, such as how much a small increase of $200 to $300 could benefit a low-income family that has little spare money.

Overall quality of article and amount of BS:

This article was low quality and does not do a very good job of supporting the claims made. The evidence provided is reliable, however there is only a small amount, and this makes it seem as if there is not an abundance of supporting information. There are also important factors never mentioned that are important to the topic of forgiving student debt, such as how the program would be funded showing that the article is focused on a single opinion. Therefore, there is a large amount of BS in this article that