**Address each of the four following critical thinking areas to the statements:**

1. Find the conclusion- try to summarize it short enough so a person driving 65mph could read it on a billboard.
2. Establish the premise-
3. Distinguish between fact, opinion, & reasoned (using both fact & opinion) arguments by evaluating its validity

Validity/Truth of a statement can be made by:

Personal experience, reference of an established authority on subject, internal consistency, plus consistence on facts we already know as true.

1. Distinguish faulty reasoning- which is in every one of the statements!

**Please answer #’s 1-4 (listed above) for the each of the following quotes:**

1. “We know the problem, it’s been years of neglect and in many cases it’s been these radical environmentalists that want nature to take its course. We have dead and dying timber—we can manage it using best science, best practices.”

(Spoken by US Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, November 2018, in reference to the California Wildfires that killed over 80 people in 2018)

***1.***

***2.***

***3.***

***4.***

1. “When do we ask The Sierra Club to pick up the tab for this leak? Everyone’s focused on BP and Halliburton and Transocean. Well, let me connect the dots here for you. The greeniacs have been driving our oil producers off the land from [offshore](http://www.ecorazzi.com/2010/05/19/the-green-quote-rush-limbaugh-now-blaming-the-sierra-club-for-oil-spill/) to way offshore to way, way, way out there offshore. From low risk to high risk to higher risk, we are now forced to drill one mile, one mile under sea — that’s 5,000 feet! Obviously it’s going to be a much more expensive, problematic proposition to get oil from that depth than elsewhere, and yet that has been what has been forced upon everybody here.”

(Spoken by Rush Limbaugh during a segment on his radio show May 17th, 2010)

***1.***

***2.***

***3.***

***4.***

1. “OK, so the climate has changed over the eons and we know from history, at the time of Julius Caesar and Jesus of Nazareth the climate was considerably warmer than it is now. And then during what they called the Dark Ages it was colder. Then there was the medieval warm period. Climate change happens all the time and it is not man that drives those climate changes back in history. It is an open question how much the climate changes today and what role man plays.” *(Tony* Abbott, Australia’s Prime Minister, speaking to a classroom of school children in 2010)

***1.***

***2.***

***3.***

***4.***

1. “Nobody knows anything about the true shape of the world. The known, inhabited world is flat. Just a guess I’d say that the dome of Heaven is about 4,000 miles away, and the stars are about as far as San Francisco is from Boston.”

(Science Digest July 1980, “The flat-out truth: Earth Orbits? Moon Landings? A

fraud! Says the Prophet.” Charles Johnson quote)

***1.***

***2.***

***3.***

***4.***

1. “Since the preservation of wetlands became government policy, there has been an enormous increase in the population of mosquitoes, and concomitantly and unfortunately, a resurgence of malaria & other mosquito-borne diseases.” (unknown)

***1.***

***2.***

***3.***

***4.***

1. “But people talk about cap and tax and they aren’t sure exactly what we’re talking about. Let’s get back to step one. What is the problem? Why do we have to have this tax in the first place? It’s about carbon dioxide. Well, what is carbon dioxide? Let’s just go to a fundamental question. Carbon dioxide, Mister Speaker, is a natural byproduct of nature. Carbon dioxide is *natural*. It occurs in Earth. It is a part of the regular lifecycle of Earth. In fact, life on planet Earth can’t even exist without carbon dioxide. So *necessary* is it to human life, to animal life, to plant life, to the oceans, to the vegetation that’s on the Earth, to the, to the fowl that — that flies in the air, we need to have carbon dioxide as part of the fundamental lifecycle of Earth. As a matter of fact, carbon dioxide is portrayed as harmful! But there isn’t even one study that can be produced that shows carbon dioxide is a harmful gas. There isn’t one such study because carbon dioxide is not a *harmful* gas, it is a *harmless* gas. Carbon dioxide is natural. It is not *harmful*. It is part of Earth’s life cycle. And yet we’re being told that we have to reduce this natural substance and *reduce* the American standard of living to create an arbitrary reduction in something that is naturally occurring in the earth. Well we’re told the *crux* of this problem is human activity. It’s *humans* that are creating more carbon dioxide! Is that true, or is that false? Well, carbon dioxide is a *natural* part of Earth’s atmosphere. The carbon dioxide is perhaps *three percent* of the total atmosphere that’s in the Earth. So if you take a pie chart, and you have all of Earth’s atmosphere, carbon dioxide is perhaps *three percent* of that total. What part of human activity creates carbon dioxide? If carbon dioxide is a negligible gas and it’s only three percent of Earth’s atmosphere, what part is human activity? Human activity contributes perhaps *three percent* of the *three percent*. In other words, human activity is maybe *3 percent* contributing to the *3 percent* of carbon dioxide that’s in Earth’s atmosphere. It’s so *negligible* — it’s a fraction of a fraction of a fraction of a percent — that it can hardly be — be quantified.” (Spoken on the House floor on Earth Day, April 22, 2009, by Rep. Michele Bachmann)

Video link of Michelle Bachmann’s statement with rebuttal by Rep. Blumenauer. (only watch ***after*** you have thought through the answers to 1-4…) <http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=IAaDVOd2sRQ&vq=small>

***1.***

***2.***

***3.***

***4.***