

## **Evaluating Argument**

**When:** Use with Jacobs, **Week 1 R 8/28:** Discuss Jacobs, “The Use of Sidewalks: Safety” and Anderson, “A Center City Walking Tour” and go over the guidelines for the observation to be used in Paper #1

Print and cut apart worksheet before class. Activity can be done entirely during class time.

**Why:** This particular article has the potential to provoke discussion about what’s changed since its publication and therefore is a great introduction to developing a healthy skepticism of texts and placing texts as objects in conversation (rather than just factual documents to be believed).

### **Instructions:**

1. In advance, print out one copy of the attached sheet for each group (figure that groups are going to be 4-5 members) and cut the different questions apart, keeping a group’s questions together with a paperclip.
2. In class, divide into groups and distribute a question or two to each group member. They’re in charge of leading the group in discussion of their question and taking notes about the group’s responses.
3. When most groups seem to be wrapping up, bring the class back and get each group to report on their findings, leading their observations into a discussion of evaluating sources.

\*\*Since this is early in the semester, you may want to begin by getting the groups to introduce themselves to each other.