Tracing Perspective in the News

Use the following models to help you think through the article you choose to read:

Social Model: views disability as a consequence of environmental, social and attitudinal barriers that may prevent people from fully participating in society.
Words associated with social model: *Identity, pride, culture, diversity, societal barriers*

Medical Model: views disability as resulting from an individual person's physical or mental limitations, and is not connected to the social or geographical environments. The Medical Model focuses on finding a "cure" or making a person more "normal."
Words associated with the medical model: *Problem, impairment, defect, deficit, deformity, abnormality, cure*

Exercise #1: Search for a news article on 'disability legislation.' After finding an article, provide your analysis of the article by answering the questions below:

1. Provide the article's title, author, and publication.

2. What is the article about? What are the main points of the article?

3. Who is discussed in the article? (Answers can include specific people, activists, advocates, organizations, etc.) Who is specifically quoted in the article? If there is more than one person quoted, who is quoted the most?

4. Does the article you read follow the medical model or social model of disability? Explain.

5. Do you think the article provides a realistic perspective on the topic for a general audience? Is there information missing?

Exercise #2: Choose an article written from a disabled journalist (links below) and answer the following questions:

[NPR: The ADA was a victory for the disabled community, but we need more. My life shows why](#) by Shruti Rajkumar ([PDF](#))
[NPR: With Roe v. Wade overturned, disabled people reflect on how it will impact them](#) by Shruti Rajkumar ([PDF](#))
[Time: To Fix America's Broken Health Care System, We Must Rethink Who Counts as an Expert](#) by s.e. smith ([PDF](#))
[Esquire: Disabled Americans Have the Most to Fear Under RepubliCare](#) by s.e. smith ([PDF](#))
[Teen Vogue: The Subminimum Wage for Workers With Disabilities Is a Disgrace](#) by Kim Kelly ([PDF](#))

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2. What is the article about? What are the main points of the article?

3. Who is discussed in the article? (Answers can include specific people, activists, advocates, organizations, etc.) Who is quoted in the article? If there is more than one person quoted, who is quoted the most?

4. Does the article you read follow the medical model or social model of disability? Explain.

5. Does the approach of this article differ from the one you read in exercise #1? If it does, can you explain further?