Common Art Assignment

Artist Alexandra Bell's "radical edits" of news stories question the way race, gender, class, and sexuality bias our understanding of the world around us. Bell highlights flawed reporting into counternarratives that contradict the dominant narrative and challenge others to take a more critical stance against the news they consume.

In this assignment, you will follow Bell's example and evaluate a *New York Times* article discussing Serena Williams's loss at the 2009 US Open. Read the below article before answering the following questions. You are encouraged to research your answers using whatever resources are at your disposal.

Robbins, L. (2009, Sept. 12). Clijsters Wins on Penalty Assessed on Williams. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/13/sports/tennis/13women.html.

1. In one to two sentences, briefly summarize what happened during the Williams-Clijsters match, according to the reporter, Liz Robbins.

2. Spend a few minutes researching the careers of Williams and Clijsters on Google.
    a. What are some of Williams's career achievements?

    b. What are some of Clijsters's career achievements?

3. Let's step back and assess the facts ourselves. Watch the moment Williams garnered a penalty at https://youtu.be/2Pg1AYtaL-Q. Answer the below questions based on what you see and hear.
    a. Did Williams's foot cross the baseline while she served, causing her to commit a foot fault?

    b. How would you characterize Williams' behavior after the call, including when she spoke to Clijsters?

4. In the second through fourth paragraphs, how does Robbins describe Williams and how does she describe Kim Clijsters? Are there any similarities or differences between the players and their conduct, according to Robbins?
    a. Williams:

    b. Clijsters:

5. Robbins reported that Williams “argued angrily.” Search for tennis arguments. Based on your search results, how does Williams and her behavior compare to other tennis players?

6. Based on your research, do you think Robbins’s description of the two players is accurate and relevant? Why or why not?

7. How might you rewrite two sentences for each player from the second through fourth paragraphs?
    a. Williams:

    b. Clijsters:

8. Write an alternative headline to describe your counternarrative to your reader.