

CURRENT ISSUES

MR. BIRD

JOURNAL

Rank the following headlines from most biased to least biased...

- “Obama Executive Action: New Gun Control Orders”
 - New York Times
- “The Creeping Expansion of Gun Control Laws”
 - CNN
- “Obama Starts 2016 With Fight on Gun Control”
 - KSL

What factors influence how journalists write their stories?

OBJECTIVE:

Understand the concept of bias and how it relates to the reporting of news stories

AGENDA:

Model Debate
Hughes Activity
What Makes News?
State of the Union

JOURNAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Why were some headlines more biased than others? What factors did you use to rank them?
 - Does the publication that published the headline have any effect on bias?
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DEBATE PRESENTATION PRO TIPS

- Prepare your rebuttal questions beforehand
 - Try to anticipate what questions they will have for you
 - Cross-check your sources
 - nsa.gov is not the same as nsa.gov1.info, and Google gave me the second one first
 - Practice!
 - This will help you get in the 5-7 minute timeframe
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JOURNAL #3

- What is the difference between bias and perspective? Is bias ever good?

(Unless otherwise stated, your journal entries should be 3-4 complete sentences long)

OBJECTIVE:

Understand the concept of bias and how it relates to the reporting of news stories

AGENDA:

Partner Debate Assignments
What is Bias?
Hughes Activity
What Makes News?

WHAT IS BIAS?

- **Bias**- mental leaning or inclination; prejudice. *Negative.*
 - **Perspective**- the relationship or proportion of the parts of a whole, regarded from a particular standpoint in time; the interrelation in which a subject and its parts are mentally viewed
 - **Point of View**- the place from which, or way in which, something is viewed or considered; standpoint; a mental attitude or opinion
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BIAS AND THE SIMPSONS- BART



BIAS AND THE SIMPSONS- MR. BURNS



BIAS AND THE SIMPSONS



SIR SAM HUGHES ACTIVITY

On your own...

- Read the article assigned to your half of the classroom
- Brainstorm a list of adjectives that describe Sam Hughes

Don't write on my articles!

HOW DOES BIAS AFFECT US IN THIS CLASS?

OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFECT BIAS

What stories make it into the news? Why doesn't KSL report on your baby sister taking her first steps?

- Timeliness- News that is happening right now, or is important to readers right now.
 - Relevance- The story happened nearby or is about a concern of local interest. It matters to your audience.
 - Magnitude- News that affects a large number of people. For example, a storm that floods your basement may not make the news, but a storm that floods a whole neighborhood will.
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OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFECT BIAS (CONT.)

- Unexpectedness -- Something unusual, or something that occurs without warning.
 - Impact -- News that will affect a large number of readers.
 - Reference to someone famous or important -- News about a prominent person or personality is more popular.
 - Oddity -- A unique or unusual situation (“if a man bites a dog...”).
 - Conflict -- A major struggle in the news.
 - Reference to something negative -- Bad news often "sells" better than good news.
 - Continuity- News that has already been reported on before
 - Emotional- News that evokes a powerful emotion (such as hate, fear, etc.)
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WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Search through Mr. Bird's magic "Box-o-fun" and find two news articles to analyze. On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions for each article:

1. Identify the source. Does that affect the telling of *this* story?
 2. Describe the difference in time from the event to publication date.
 3. Describe the magnitude and impact.
 4. Was there anything unusual or unexpected about the event described?
 5. Which of the factors from your note sheet can you see being used?
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