

Research Paper

RECOGNIZING BIAS

Bias is a preference or an attitude that can prevent a person from presenting information clearly and honestly. When an author presents personal opinions as fact, that is bias.

Directions: On the line, write the title of a source that you have already selected for your research, or choose another Web site, article, or book related to your topic. Then answer the following questions about your source.

Title: _____

1. Who is the author, and what is his or her background? Does the author have ethical beliefs or personal experiences that might influence the writing?

2. Why did the author write this piece? Did the intent influence his or her point of view?

3. Are the writer's statements based on verifiable evidence, or are they speculation?

4. Are enough facts presented to give a solid basis for the conclusion?

5. Is the evidence balanced, or does one side get more support? _____

6. How has the time period influenced the author's view of events or issues being discussed? _____

7. Does the author use loaded language that has extremely positive or extremely negative connotations? If so, give examples.

8. Do you think your source is biased? Why or why not? _____
