

## Detecting Bias in News Articles CARC Social Studies

Please note, all support materials are after the lesson plan template beginning on page 4. Each support page is linked in the lesson plan. Click on the red push pin (📌) in each support page to return to the lesson plan template.

<b>Grade Level</b>	6	<b>General Outcome</b>	This focus of this activity is to develop skills of critically analysing fact, opinion and bias in examining current events.
<b>Time Frame</b>	2 – 3 classes	<b>Enduring Understanding (purpose of the lesson)</b>	In this scaffolded activity, students analyse information on detecting bias in news articles then analyse articles for bias to ultimately determine the trustworthiness of the article.
<b>Developed By</b>	D. Lastiwka		
<b>Critical Challenge/Big Idea</b>	<b>To what extent is an article bias influence the decision making process?</b>		
<b>Other Questions of Inquiry</b>	What is the evidence of bias presented in a news article? Which article presents the stronger argument and why?		
<b>Value and Attitude Outcomes</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding Outcomes</b>	<b>Skills and Process Outcomes</b>	
		<p><b>develop skills of critical and creative thinking</b>  <b>6.S.1.1</b> Recognize the difference between fact and opinion and recognize bias when examining local and current affairs.</p> <p><b>apply the research process</b>  <b>6.S.7.1</b> determine if information is trustworthy and identify point of view and bias.  <b>6.S.7.4</b> draw and support conclusions based on information gathered to answer a research question</p>	

Summative Assessment Strategies	Detecting Bias <a href="#">Rubric</a>
<b>Introductory Activity/ The Hook</b>	<p><b>Activity 1: Detecting Bias Class Practice</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select and discuss a current issue in your community, e.g., an item from the front page of the local newspaper. Using this article as the context, provide students with a copy of "<a href="#">How to Detect Bias in the News</a>". These materials are copyright friendly under certain conditions. Please check the copyright permissions at <a href="http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/tools/site_policies/copyright_notice.cfm">http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/tools/site_policies/copyright_notice.cfm</a></li> </ol> <p>Note: Media awareness has some excellent teaching resources that are for different grade levels and can be adapted for other grade levels. Check the <a href="#">Fact and Opinion</a> materials available or search for necessary topics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Discuss ideas that are presented in <i>How to Detect Bias in the News</i>; giving examples and non-examples will help students understand the different journalistic techniques that allow bias.</li> <li>3. Discuss the content of the news article and ask, "What evidence of bias is in the article?" As a class, complete a copy of the support document <a href="#">Detecting Bias</a>.</li> </ol>
<b>Teaching/ Learning Strategies and Activities</b>	<p><b>Activity 2: Detecting Bias Partner Practice</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. After introducing bias in news, select two articles that would lend themselves to opposing views on the same situation. Various news websites are useful for this activity; see "Resources" sections below. Discuss or review fact and opinion with students. Have students work in pairs to determine the bias in the two articles. Once the two articles have been examined, students then make a judgement and provide evidence of which article is most biased.</li> </ol> <p><b>Activity 3: Detecting Bias Individual Work</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Select three articles and ask students to choose one article from those three that shows bias. They are to provide evidence of bias by highlighting instances in the article and then explaining how each instance shows bias.</li> </ol> <p><b>Extension</b></p>

	<p>6. Students can also look for biases in video news reports and/or compare two news articles (in various forms of media) on their own in the same fashion to determine which contains the most bias. There are many combinations for this basic skill which can help with differentiation.</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<p>Harding, J. C., and Sears, A. (2008). <i>Voices in democracy: action and participation</i>. Don Mills, Ontario: Pearson Education Canada.</p> <p>Media Awareness Network. (2010). <i>How to detect bias in the news</i>. Retrieved May 23, 2011 from <a href="http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/educational/handouts/broadcast_news/bw_bias_in_the_news.cfm?RenderForPrint=1">http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/educational/handouts/broadcast_news/bw_bias_in_the_news.cfm?RenderForPrint=1</a></p> <p>Media Awareness Network. (2010). <i>Search for: fact and opinion</i>. Retrieved May 23, 2011 from <a href="http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/tools/main_search/search_results.cfm">http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/tools/main_search/search_results.cfm</a></p> <p>News Websites:</p> <p>Canadian websites:</p> <p>CBC News <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/">http://www.cbc.ca/</a>  CTV News <a href="http://www.ctv.ca/news/">http://www.ctv.ca/news/</a>  Global News <a href="http://www.globalnews.ca/">http://www.globalnews.ca/</a></p> <p>United States websites:</p> <p>ABC News <a href="http://abcnews.go.com/">http://abcnews.go.com/</a>  CBS News <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/">http://www.cbsnews.com/</a>  MSNBC News <a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com/">http://www.msnbc.msn.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Formative Assessment Strategies</b></p>	<p>This activity is scaffolded to ensure practice prior to summative assessment.</p>

Adapted from: Wiggins, Grant and J. Mc Tighe. (1998). *Understanding by Design*, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
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## Detecting Bias Rubric

Level Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Adequate	Limited
<b>Recognizes bias in news article</b> (6.S.1.1, 6.S.7.1)	Identifies <b>significant</b> journalistic techniques related to bias.	Identifies <b>relevant</b> journalistic techniques related to bias.	Identifies <b>predictable</b> journalistic techniques related to bias.	Identifies <b>unrelated</b> journalistic techniques related to bias.
<b>Draws and supports conclusions</b> (6.S.7.4)	Provides <b>comprehensive</b> and <b>compelling</b> evidence to support conclusion	Provides <b>thorough</b> and <b>convincing</b> evidence to support conclusion	Provides <b>general</b> and <b>plausible</b> evidence to support conclusion	Provides <b>trivial</b> and <b>sketchy</b> evidence to support conclusion

Comments:

## Detecting Bias

<b>Bias Through:</b>	<b>Evidence/Examples/Explanation</b>
Selection and omission	
Placement	
Headline	
Photos, captions, camera angles	
Names and titles	
Statistics and crowd counts	
Source control	
Choice and tone	

Based on the above evidence, this article \_\_\_\_\_ trustworthy (is or is not).