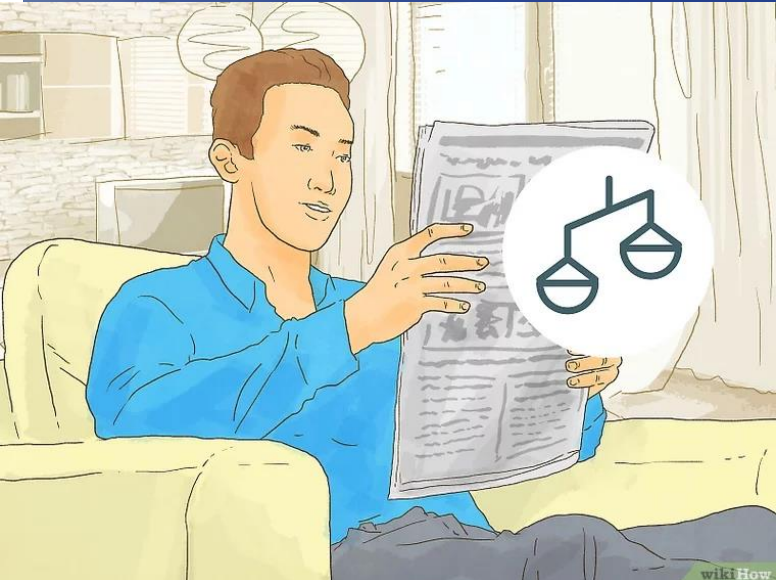


Lesson Objectives

- Students will be able to recognize that any one image can be interpreted differently depending on a viewer's point of view, life experiences, and biases.
- Students will be able to describe the challenges in selecting images to represent news events, particularly in connection to sensitive issues.

Aim #2b: How can we overcome bias?



Michael Brown Case Timeline

2014

August 9 • Michael Brown is shot

August 10 • Protests begin

August 14 • State trooper takes over operations from local police

August 15 • Officer who shot Michael Brown identified

September 3 • Justice Department opens inquiry

November 24 • Grand jury decides not to indict Darren Wilson

2015

March 4 • Department of Justice releases reports



Do Now!

Fergusson...You're the editor, which photo would you run on the front page?

Why?



A



B



Fox News now

BREAKING NEWS: Grand jury does not
indict officer in Ferguson case

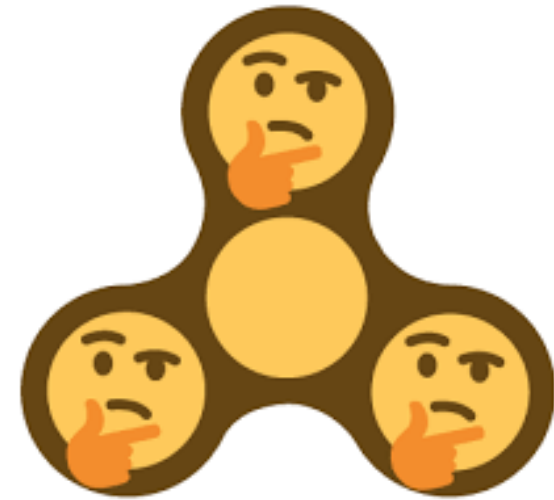


CNN now

No indictment for Darren Wilson, the white
police officer who fatally shot Michael
Brown, an unarmed black teen.

Think about...

- How do you get your information about current events or any information?
- How do you know that information is accurate?
- “...news is largely a matter of what one man wants the people to know and feel and think” (George Seldes *Freedom of the Press New York 1935*)
- An event happened.. I watched CNN and got 1 story, then I watched FOX News and I got a completely different story... Same thing with “His”tory



What is Bias?

-

-

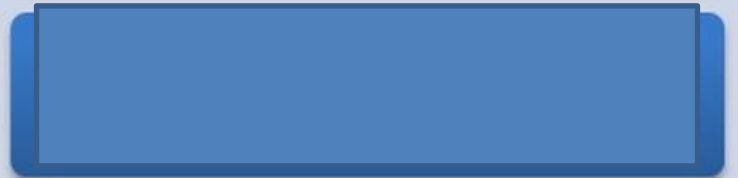


Types of Bias

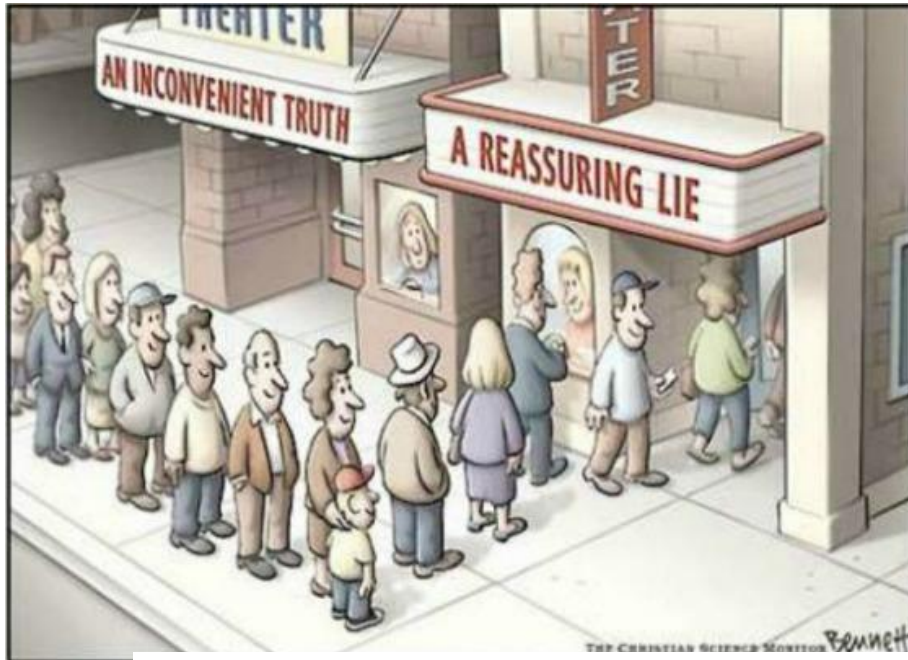
Explicit bias



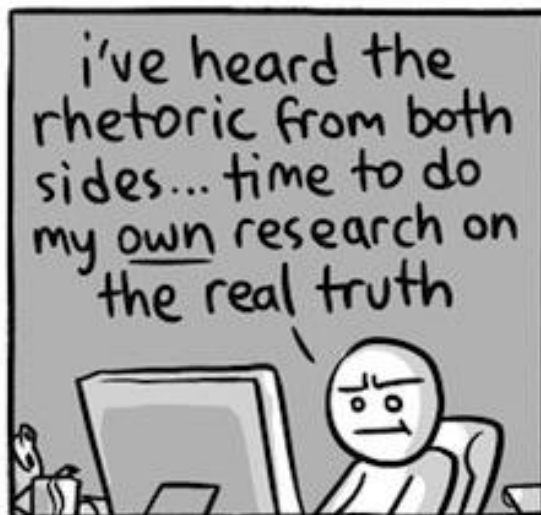
Implicit bias



Confirmation Bias



the tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories



× THE UPTURNED MICROSCOPE PRESENTS
Logical Fallacies in the Lab

CONFIRMATION BIAS

FAVOURING EVIDENCE THAT SUPPORTS YOUR PRE-EXISTING BELIEFS WHILE IGNORING EVIDENCE THAT DOESN'T.



Bias Against Israel



4 Israelis, 2 Palestinians killed in synagogue attack, Israeli police say

By Michael Schwarz and Ralph Ellis, CNN
November 18, 2014 - Updated 06:08 GMT (14:30 HKT)



Middle East

Palestinian shot dead after Jerusalem attack kills two

8 minutes ago | Middle East

IS THERE A BIAS AGAINST ISRAEL AT THE UN?

RESOLUTIONS SINGLING OUT

- ISRAEL: 21 (A LIBERAL DEMOCRACY)**
- SYRIA: 1 (GOVERNED BY A REGIME THAT HAS MURDERED 40,000 OF ITS OWN PEOPLE)**
- IRAN: 1 (WIDESPREAD TORTURE, RAPE, AND EXECUTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS)**
- NORTH KOREA: 1 (OVER 200,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE HELD IN TORTUROUS CONDITIONS)**
- BURMA: 1 (FORCED LABOUR, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND CHILD LABOUR ARE COMMON)**
- SAUDI ARABIA: 0 (WOMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO VOTE OR LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT A MALE RELATIVE)**
- ZIMBABWE: 0 (GOVERNMENT USES CHILD SOLDIERS AND STATE TERRORISM TO SUPPRESS OPPOSITION)**

THE UN ALSO FAILED TO ACT ON EGREGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS LIKE VENEZUELA, CUBA, PAKISTAN, SUDAN, AND OTHER NOTORIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS

From UN WATCH's study of the 2012 UNGA session.
For more info, or to support more charts: www.unwatch.org

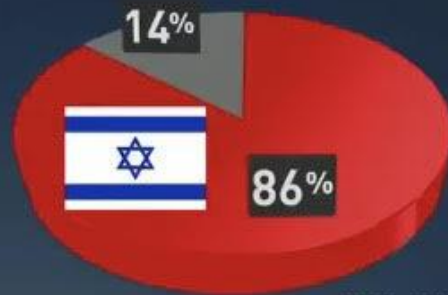


The Israel Project

December 22, 2017 · ⚙️



UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS 2012-2015



Against Israel

Against other countries

U.N. WATCH



NAS ▲ 4.40

THE LEAD

A Must Watch: Finally, after all this time, m... See More

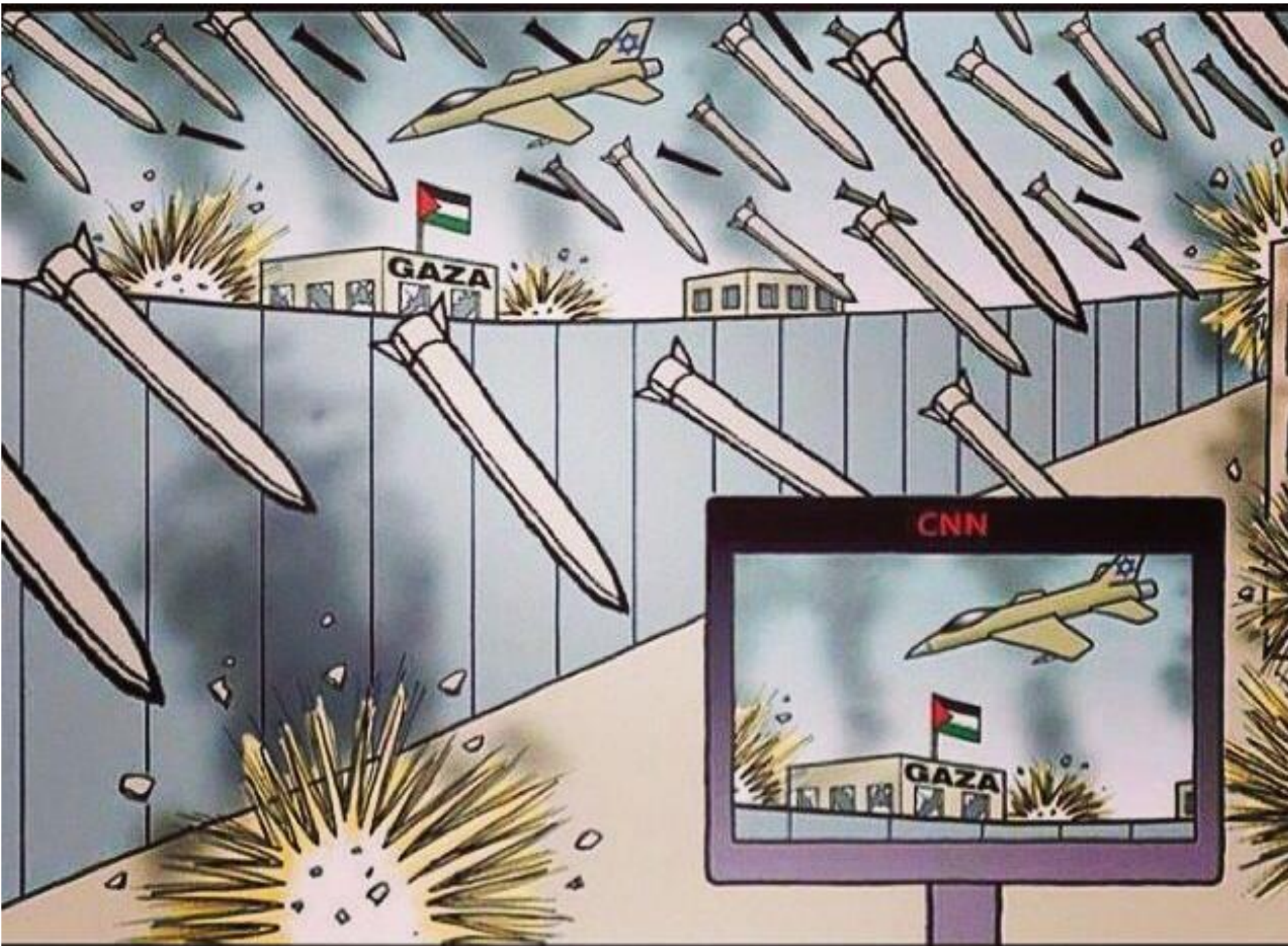
👍❤️😱 1.3K

254 Comments 693 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

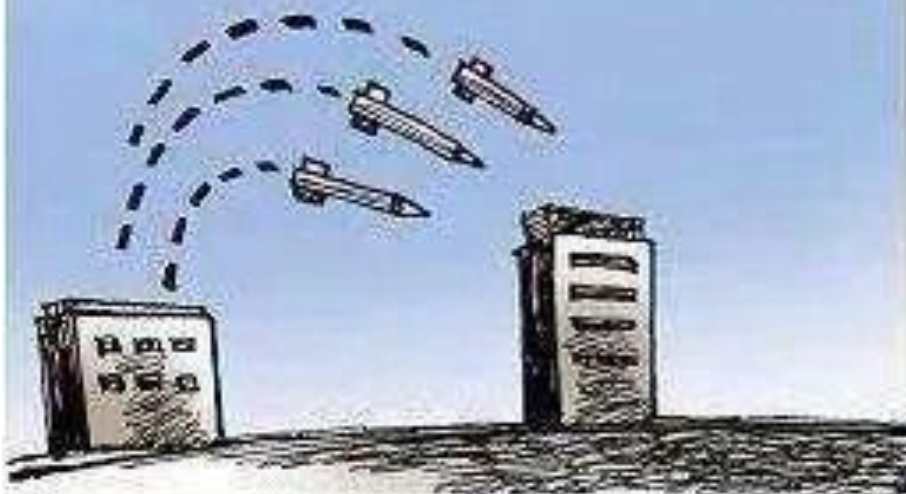


GAZA

CNN

GAZA

HAMAS ATTACKS ISRAEL



HAMAS ATTACKS ISRAEL



HAMAS ATTACKS ISRAEL



ISRAEL DEFENDS ITSELF



Continuing our magical royal weddings series...

THE KISS

FERGIE & ANDREW

CENTRE PAGES

Daily Mail

FREE HISTORIC EDITION

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2018

www.dailymail.co.uk

65p

Meghan pleads with dad to walk her down aisle after he pulls out of wedding

SEE PAGES 9-11



BLOODBATH

ISRAELI troops killed at least 55 Palestinians and wounded almost 2,500 more during protests in Gaza yesterday.

The violence erupted as Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka opened the new American embassy in Jerusalem - a move that has opened a global rift.

Israel blames the protesters for most of the casualties as smoke filled Gaza's border with Israel. Bombers also fired tear gas, water-cannon shots and fired live rounds at a 40,000-strong crowd.

Hospital were said to be at breaking point, running out of blood stocks

Scores dead, thousands wounded as Israel fires on Palestinians protesting over Trump's new embassy

and their families filling up with the dead. "The hospital would be full, there is blood everywhere," said Marwan Al-Samir, a journalist reporting from the Al-Ramatha Hospital in northern Gaza. "The wounded are lying on the floor - there are no beds to accommodate them. Amputees have not stopped crying. A girl was among at least eight children killed, the youngest 16. More than 200 of the wounded were under

18, according to the Palestinian authorities. The chaotic scenes in Gaza were in stark contrast to the glamorous photographs of Miss Trump at the opening of the embassy.

President Trump took to Twitter to congratulate Israel on its great day and invited Americans to watch the ceremony live on TV.

The protests were planned to coincide with the visit of the ambassador to the Arab Palestinians, who has taken to the streets of the city of Gaza, and the opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem.

The violent scenes continued a clash with the global imagination

Turn to Page 4

Thursday 15 May 2018

Journal

Have we been making wine wrong?

Margot Kidder
Superman star dies at 69

Page 6

The Guardian



Israel: Trump's new embassy opens - and dozens are killed

Washington's new embassy in Jerusalem was opened in an official ceremony on Thursday. The US president's daughter Ivanka Trump, accompanied by her husband Jared Kushner, presided over the opening ceremony and cheered from the American and Israeli flags.

In Gaza's hospitals, scores of casualties were in critical condition and medics said the death toll included a boy, 16. There were reports that a man was killed when he was hit by a tear gas canister.

The violent scenes continued a clash with the global imagination

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In Gaza's hospitals, scores of casualties were in critical condition and medics said the death toll included a boy, 16. There were reports that a man was killed when he was hit by a tear gas canister.

The violent scenes continued a clash with the global imagination

52
Number of Palestinians shot and killed in Israel, from a number of sources, according to the Guardian

11
Age of one of those killed, according to a source who was among the dozens of protesters in Gaza

The Guardian front page, May 15, 2018

Daily Mail front page, May 15, 2018

Benjamin Netanyahu speaking on the backdrop of the Great Seal of the United States on one side, and a Palestinian man carrying a child as he runs from the flames on the other.




Huffington Post, May 15, 2018



Wall Street Journal front page, May 15, 2018

Leading the World News section of the Fox News website was a critique of the New York Times coverage, addressing claims that it was biased against Israel.



**58 and Injures Over
infire at Gaza**

by Palestinians to cross the
area Israel and Gaza quickly
Israel soldiers responded

**Israel Kills 58 and Injures Over
1,300 by Gunfire at Gaza
Border**

• A mass attempt by Palestinians to cross the
border fence between Israel and Gaza quickly
turned violent, as Israeli soldiers responded
with rifle fire.

**Israel Kills 58 and Injures
1,300 by Gunfire at
Border**

• A mass attempt by Palestinian
border fence between Israel and Gaza quickly
turned violent, as Israeli soldiers
with rifle fire.

NY Times accused of anti-Israel bias in Gaza violence coverage

Critics on social media accused The New York Times of anti-Israel bias in their reporting on riots in the Gaza Strip that left dozens of Palestinians dead Monday.

White House blames Gaza violence on Hamas

Gun sets on deadly day along Gaza border

The New York Times reported on the protests with the headline "Israelis Kill Dozens in Gaza" along with photos from the Strip. Under the item was an article titled "Death in Gaza, a New Embassy in Jerusalem and No Sign of Peace."



The New York Times front page, May 15, 2018



50 شهيد من حماس

We live in a world
where **terrorists**
are more honest
than **news headlines**.
Why is that?

Hamas leader just admitted that 50 out of the 62 people
killed in Gaza border clash were Hamas terrorists.

Ben Shapiro

- <https://youtu.be/0F-70rBorFs>



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 **HonestReporting** September 30 at 10:19 AM · 🌐

18 years ago today, this photo of Tuvia Grossman, a Jewish student from Chicago appeared in the New York Times misrepresenting him as a Palestinian victim of an Israeli border policeman. (He was, in fact, attacked and beaten by a Palestinian mob.)

For HonestReporting, this was The Photo... [See More](#)



'Misinformation matters because media outlets have great power. They shape the way we understand the world and, ultimately, drive our behavior.'

-Adam Milstein, The Jerusalem Post

SINGAPORE SUMMIT WORK IN PROGRESS



**Trump-Kim agreement lacks details,
leaving path ahead unclear**

A2-6 | [UPDATES AT NEWSDAY.COM](https://www.newsday.com)

Senate Republican leader **Mitch McConnell** called the meeting a “major first step,” in U.S.-North Korea relations, but not a decisive one if North Korea does not follow through.

“The next steps in negotiations will test whether we can get to a verifiable deal,” **McConnell** said on the Senate floor.

“President Trump has granted a brutal and repressive dictatorship the international legitimacy it has long craved,” Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** (D-N.Y.) said.

Tips for News Accuracy & Detecting Bias

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Sources Can Be Misleading

- Questions to Consider:
 - Who wrote the source?
 - When was the source written? [Think about more than just the date: What was happening at that time? **Context.**]
 - Who did the author want to read the source?
Audience
 - Where was the source written? [As with the “when”, this more than simply an issue of place.]
 - What was the purpose in writing the source?
Agenda.

Interpreting a Source: Identifying the Author's Intentions

Interpreting a source accurately requires understanding why the author wrote it. The table below helps us understand what the author is trying to communicate.

Influences Shaping an Author's Intention		
Type of Influence	Description	Examples
Point of View	The author's role in the event	The author's level of wealth or race
Purpose	The reason the source was created	A desire to persuade or entertain
Context	The general historical conditions	A time of economic prosperity or religious conflict
Bias	The values of the author	A supporter of gender equality or slavery
Form of the Source	The nature of the source	A long book or short newspaper ad
Time Source Was Created	The chronological period	During the Romantic Era or WWII
Place Source Was Created	The geographic location	A large coastal city or a small village in the mountains
Intended Audience	The people the author created the source for	A few experts or all potential voters

Critically Analyze Document to Detect Bias

- H= Historical Context
 - A= Audience
 - P= Purpose
 - P= Point of View
 - Y= Why
- Year? What was happening at the time document was written?
 - For whom was the document created, & how might this affect the reliability or accuracy of the document?
 - WHY or FOR WHAT REASON was the source produced? What was the author's GOAL in writing it?
 - Can you identify an important aspect of WHO the author is, & explain HOW this might have impacted what they wrote? • Can you identify an influence that shaped the author or source, & EXPLAIN HOW THAT INFLUENCE specifically affected the document's content?
 - Why does this document help you answer your question? How does the document impact/shape/reflect popular arguments on the subject? • What are the limitations of the document?



Detecting Bias Notes

<p>Selecting and omitting information</p>	<p><i>People booed during Obama's speech:</i> "remarks greeted by jeers" vs. "handful of dissidents"</p>	<p>Names and Titles</p>	<p>"ex-con" vs. someone who "served time 20 years ago for a minor offense"</p>
<p>Story placement</p>	<p>American journalists burying news about genocide of Jews during WWII in back pages</p>	<p>Statistics and crowd counts</p>	<p>"100 injured in air crash" vs. "only minor injuries in air crash"</p>
<p>Headline</p>	<p>Butcher Tells U.S. - Come and Get Me</p>	<p>Source control</p>	<p>Who was/wasn't interviewed? Coverage prompted by PR?</p>
<p>Word choice/tone</p>	<p>"For two years, a Brooklyn thug sat in jail awaiting trial for a cold-blooded murder..."</p>	<p>Photos and captions</p>	<p>Katrina pictures</p>

Document Analysis

Author

Place & Time

Prior Knowledge

Audience

Reason

The Main Idea

Significance

Subject

Occasion

Audience

Purpose

Speaker



How to Recognize Bias in a Newspaper Article

[*WikiHow*]

With all the information that's out there these days, it's important to be able to recognize bias in the news. If a newspaper article is biased, this means that an unfair preference for someone or something affected the way the reporter wrote the piece. The reporter might favor one side of a debate or a particular politician, and this could cloud the reporting. Sometimes, reporters don't even mean to be biased; they may do it by accident or because they didn't do enough research. To wade through this kind of reporting, you'll need to read very carefully, and you may even need to do your own research.

Method 1/3: Reading the Article Critically

1. Read the whole article carefully. Reading every single word in a newspaper article can be super time consuming, but it's worth it when you're trying to find bias in the reporting. Biases can be really subtle and hard to catch, so pay careful attention to the entire article.

- Set aside time each day to tackle one article at a time. This will help you practice the kind of skills you need to recognize bias, and you'll go faster each time. Start by giving yourself about a half hour for an article that's a few pages long.

2. Look at the headline. Some people only read headlines, so they're designed to communicate a clear point as quickly as possible. This means that using just a few words, most headlines make an argument. Evaluate each word to check whether they describe something positively or negatively. Ask yourself why the headline might not be totally neutral.

- For example, the headline "Hundreds Attend Peaceful Protest" tells a different story than "Angry Riot Confronts Police."

3. Ask yourself if the article helps or hurts anyone. Look at the words used to describe the people, political issues, and events mentioned in the article. If the language makes them sound good or bad, rather than just neutral, the reporter may be trying to influence you to favor one side over another.

- After you're finished reading, take a minute to think about how you feel about the issue the article covered. Do you suddenly want to support a particular politician or fall on one side of political debate? If so, you'll need to think about whether the article convinced you with facts or slanted language.

4. Figure out who's reading the article. Think about who typically reads this kind of article. Reporters might want to write stories that their readers will appreciate, which could lead to biased reporting. Try running a Google search to look for descriptions of the typical age, gender, racial background, income, and political leanings for the audiences of several newspapers and media outlets.

- Enter something like "demographics of New York Times readers" into the Google search bar. You may find information that's a few years out of date, but your search should still give you a broad idea of who reads the paper.
- Understanding newspapers' usual demographics can help you think about what various groups of people care about. Younger readers might have strong feelings about education, since they're still students. Older readers might want content about taxes and retirement.

5. Look for exaggerated or colorful language. Consider whether the words the reporter uses in the article are informational or emotional. Watch out any time that a word or description makes you feel a strong emotion. If overly descriptive words are used to represent a particular group of people or side of a debate, this could be an especially big red flag.

- For example, an informational description of a politician could look like this: "Senator Smith is originally from Connecticut and is thirty years old." Check out how this description makes the same content emotional: "Senator Smith comes from a rich town in Connecticut and is just barely out of her twenties."
- Look for words that reveal the reporter's double standards. For example, one person might be described as "passionate and inspired" while another might be described as "stubborn and rash," even if both people are showing dedication to a particular cause.

Method 1/3: Reading the Article Critically

6. Identify the reporter's tone to see how they feel about the topic. Take note of any language that gives you a positive or negative feeling about information. If this emotion is coming from the way the reporter is writing the story, ask yourself why the reporter feels this way. They may be sad or happy about a particular event, or angry at someone.

- Focus on how the tone of the article changes the way you read the information rather than associating the intent directly to the reporter.
- The best way to monitor your own emotions is to think about whether it's the topic that's making you feel something, or the way the article is written. Maybe the article is about a new amusement park opening in your town. This could be great news, and you may just be pumped about it. But if the article is about something you wouldn't normally feel strongly about, and you do, ask yourself why.

7. Check out the images to look for bias. Photographs, cartoons, and other images tell stories just like words. Look for the main subject in the image and think about how this person or thing looks. Take note of any shadows or colors that make the subject appear scary or triumphant. Consider how the picture makes you feel, especially if you're suddenly feeling sympathetic toward a particular group of people or side of a political debate.

8. Make a list of the sources in the article. Determine how the reporter made their point. Look at every person who's quoted, and check which company or organization they represent. Consider whether one type of organization gets more coverage in the article than others.

- Maybe the article is about a military conflict in a different country. Did the reporter quote from a balanced list of all the different people involved in the conflict? This list would probably include military officers and leaders, diplomats, politicians, and, most importantly, people from the actual country where the conflict is located. If the article only quotes, say, military personnel, read carefully to try and understand why that is.

9. Examine the statistics and studies cited in the article. It's hard to argue with numbers, which is why they're included in so much reporting. Don't let statistics intimidate you, even if you're not a math person. You can still evaluate how the reporter used these numbers. Determine the connection between the stats and the author's main point, and check to see if the stats make sense.

- Is the data cited in the article, or only the conclusions of the study? Did the author give you access to the full study? Did the author skim over the statistics without much detail and then make a strongly worded conclusion based on evidence they didn't really give you?
- If the article is only citing a small amount of information or data, ask yourself why that is. There may be other information in the study that the reporter decided to leave out.

Method 2/3: Digging Deeper into the Newspaper

- 1. Research the newspaper to find out their reputation.** Some newspapers and media outlets have a reputation for giving a particular slant on the news. Take note of the newspaper's typical audience and the issues they usually support. However, don't allow this research to keep you from reading each article critically. If we assume that something's biased, we'll believe that it is before we even read it!
 - Check out websites such as Wikipedia and Snopes to see if the newspaper is known to have a particular bias.
 - Evaluate the sources you use to check the credibility of the newspaper. Many initial Google searches will pull up websites that insist on a bias.
- 2. Look at the URL if you're online.** Sometimes, the website itself can give you a clue about whether your article is biased or even made up. A weirdly named outlet that you've never heard of may not be reliable. If the URL ends in .co, this could be a sign that you've found an illegitimate outlet posing as a real source of news.
 - You should also be suspicious of weird language and typing in either the URL or the article. Anything that has lots of typos, all CAPS, or exclamation points needs a super close read. It could easily be biased or made up.
- 3. Read the "About Us" section for online media sources.** Reputable news outlets will give you this kind of information. It should let you know who supports or owns the website or newspaper. If you can't find this section, it could be a sign that the news outlet is trying to hide a sketchy source of income or information.
- 4. Observe the placement of stories online or in a paper.** Placement of stories tell you what the newspaper thinks matters and doesn't matter in the world today. In a paper newspaper, the front page contains the big-deal stories, while the ones in the back are considered less important. In a digital newspaper, the articles the editors think are most important will be near the top of the front page or on a sidebar.
 - What topics are covered in the most important and least important stories, based on placement? What does this coverage tell you about the newspaper's priorities?
- 5. Spend some time looking at the ads.** Newspapers and news outlets need money to keep them running. Ads provide that money. Check where the majority of ads are coming from, and determine the category of the organization or company represented in the ads. This will let you know who the newspaper doesn't want to make angry through their reporting.
 - If one company or industry comes up in lots of ads, this could be a problem. It'll be difficult for a newspaper to provide unbiased coverage if they're trying to keep someone happy and out of the news.
- 6. Keep a record of the articles you read and biases you find.** The more you read, the more you'll discover about individual newspapers and the types of articles they write. Keep a journal of the articles you read, the newspapers they come from, and any biases you find. Be sure to note what the bias was in favor of or against.

Method 3/3: Examining Multiple Sides' Coverage

- 1. Read more than one article about the same topic.** Find articles from different newspapers or media outlets covering the same topic. Read critically to look for the different newspapers' biases and compare them to one another. Use these comparisons to find facts that appear in both pieces. You can then make your own judgment about a debate, person, or event.
- 2. Consider what or who the reporter didn't talk about.** This is especially important if the reporter is covering a hot-button debate. Both sides should be represented in unbiased articles. If the article is about a particular group of people, and the reporter didn't quote any of those people, this could be a warning sign for bias.
 - For example, if you're reading a story about an environmental issue, and the article only cites politicians, think about why they didn't quote any scientists. Is it because the topic was only related to politicians, or is the reporter ignoring one side of a debate?
- 3. Look for articles written by people from different groups.** Most articles could be written entirely differently by a person with a different perspective. Look for articles written by people from different age groups, genders, regions of the country, political parties, and racial backgrounds. Think about how multiple perspectives add to your understanding of one, single topic.
 - This may mean that you read one newspaper article and one blog post. It's okay to read different kinds of sources to check on the bias of newspaper articles. Just be sure to read critically and carefully no matter where you find your information.
 - As you read more articles or sources, you'll find that people, events, and debates are always super complicated. This means that there won't be one simple explanation for any issue. Don't get stressed out by this. Just try to learn as much as you can by reading widely. The more you know, the more prepared you'll be to deal with complex problems.
- 4. Go online or look on social media to see if the article got feedback.** Sometimes, newspapers articles make people angry, frustrated, or (less often) excited. You can run a Google search to check if your article generated this kind of response. You might also want to check out Twitter if your article was published recently.

Controversies over biased coverage can quickly go viral.

 - Looking for this feedback can tell you a lot about who supports the content in the article and who doesn't. While this won't necessarily tell you if the article itself is biased, it's a great way to discover who appreciates the reporting. This will help you figure out who the article helps and who it hurts.

Follow Up

- Think about iconic images from historical or more recent events and reflect on the lasting impact of these images.
- What roles have these images played in the legacy of the events?
- How do they affect how you think and feel about these events?
- Research a recent event from 2 different sources & analyze the way each source covers that same story.