

# Assignment: Examining Bias

**Submitting:** a file upload

**Points:** 50

## Instructions:

### 1. Select a Current Event:

Choose a recent news event that has received widespread media coverage (e.g., a political election, a social justice issue, a major policy decision, or an international conflict).

### 2. Choose Two Articles:

Find two online news articles about the event from different media outlets. The articles should ideally come from sources that are known for having different editorial perspectives or political leanings (e.g., one from a left-leaning publication and one from a right-leaning publication, or one from a mainstream source and one from a more niche outlet. Use the [Ad Fontes Media Bias Chart](#) to help you with this part if needed).

### 3. Analyze the Articles: In a 2-3 page essay response, address the following:

- o **Summarize each article:** Provide a brief summary of the event as presented by each source. Focus on how the facts are reported and what details are emphasized or omitted.
- o **Identify Bias:** Discuss how each article reflects bias. Consider the following questions:
  - What language or tone does the writer use to describe the event, people, or groups involved? Does the language suggest any biases?
  - Examine the vocabulary used. Are there any loaded terms or emotionally charged words?
  - How does the article frame the event? What perspective or angle is taken, and how might that reflect a bias?
  - Does the article include or exclude certain voices, opinions, or facts? How might this shape the reader's perception of the issue?
- o **Compare the Two Articles:** Analyze how the coverage differs between the two sources. In what ways does bias shape the portrayal of the event in each article? How do these differences impact your understanding of the issue?

#### **4. Reflect on Bias and Media Consumption:**

Conclude your essay by reflecting on why it's important to recognize bias in media. How can understanding bias help you become a more informed consumer of news and information? What strategies will you use moving forward to critically engage with the media you consume?

#### **Formatting Requirements:**

- 2-3 pages
- Times New Roman, 12-point font
- Double-spaced
- MLA format for in-text citations and works cited page

#### **Grading Criteria:**

- Clarity and accuracy of article summaries-10
- Depth of analysis in identifying and explaining bias-10
- Ability to compare and contrast the two articles-10
- Thoughtfulness in reflecting on the role of bias in media-10
- Proper use of MLA citation style and overall organization-10

(Attribution to Amber Tidwell's College Reading and Composition OER Shell)