

Detecting Bias in Writing—Some questions to ask...

1. Is the writing reasonable?
2. What is the balance of emotion and reason?
3. What proof is offered?
4. Is the presentation balanced?
5. Is the choice of words reasonable?
6. Is the language neutral, avoiding “snarl words” and “purr words”?
7. Is there any imprecise or vague language that limits the interpretation?
8. Are differing points of view acknowledged and dealt with?
9. What is the writer’s reputation?
10. Does the writer have anything to gain by convincing you?
11. Has the writer declared any potential conflict of interest?
12. What is the reputation of the publishing organization?
13. Are there clear connections to special interest groups?
14. What sources are being quoted for “facts”/“data”?
15. Is it clear what is fact and what is opinion?
16. Does the writer use “spin”—i.e., subjective comments about objective facts?
17. Is the logic sound?
18. Is there factual agreement with other sources?

Identifying Bias--some sources (active as of January, 2021)

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/tech/1404/evaluating-bias-in-online-information/>

http://asher813.typepad.com/dreams_into_lightning/2006/05/how_can_you_det.html

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bias>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_biases_in_judgment_and_decision_making

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_bias