

Student Example 1:

Media Bias Reflection

Media bias is everywhere and is often formulated in such a way that at initial glance will seem like the objective truth. Prior to this media bias course, I believed media bias was simply pushing an agenda through the news without deliberately stating that the journalist is in fact pushing their agenda. Although this still stands true, media bias is enormously complex. The mere vocabulary choices that a journalist makes, intentionally or unintentionally, will ultimately persuade the reader's opinion on the issue at hand. Initially, I thought media bias was mainly found on social media because a published newspaper or magazine would be closely edited for bias. After intensively investigating The New York Times newspaper I noticed that simply calling the West Bank Judea and Samaria (or vice versa) is technically bias. My definition of media bias has not exactly changed, rather it has expanded. Pushing an agenda is easily masked, but after this course I am capable of unveiling the objective truth. Also, after writing a news report on the IDF soldiers that were run over by a truck, I became cognizant of the difficulties reporters face with each event they try to expose to the world unbiasedly. Journalists should stray from providing their opinion, as it may persuade the reader wrongly, and could potentially result in readers making a false-assumptions. Often times, unfortunately, journalists find it difficult to exclude their opinion, but in order for the reader to be provided the mere essence and the correct content, they must aim to encompass the absolute content of a certain story. Granting the readers a "full picture" view of a topic will motivate the reader to come to his or her own conclusion and reasoning. Before this class, I never understood the complexity regarding this issue and all the means that are required when identifying media bias. I have enjoyed broadening my definition of media bias and how to completely understand this precarious topic.

Student Example 2:

Before we learnt about media bias, I had known nothing about the topic. Media bias was not a topic of interest. I didn't feel connected so I never learnt more. Originally I thought media bias was the media only showing one side of the argument. This made sense because whenever someone mentioned media bias they said how one sided the article was. Now I have learnt that the reason a news article might be so one sided is because it may be an opinion based article. These articles even be found in the newspaper which I didn't even know existed. To figure out the intention of the article, it is now important to research the source and find out if the article is meant to be facts or opinion. My definition has now shifted to an article that is supposed to be objective by the source but is actually subjective. After looking at clear examples it seemed pretty easy to identify subjective articles but the question is, is it meant to be subjective? This is the defining question on media bias. These clearly subjective articles made it seemed simple to identify other articles in a similar fashion. I was wrong. When I was not told whether or not it was was subjective, it became my opinion whether or not it was subjective opposed to being a fact. Now my research and my opinion on the subjectiveness of an article can be different than someone else's even though we researched the source. Now I have figured out why I don't like media bias. The fact that one article can be biased for one person and another swears it is not is pointless. There should be articles that just state facts so that people can not argue over the objectiveness of an article. But even if this was a new article form, people would argue over the validity of the facts. So now when I take all this into account I realise that there will always be someone who disagrees with your opinion which means there is no right answer even though you feel your answer is right. Media bias so far only affects me when I am trying to disprove someone with an article. I don't worry about my own opinion being swayed by reading a biased

article. So in my future debates I will take into account that I need approval by the adversary about the validity of the article before I can disprove them with the article.

Student Example 3:

Having attended AIPAC Policy Conference for 3 years in a row now, I felt I had a solid grasp on the concept of Media Bias, but it turns out there was a lot I didn't know. I don't know if my past definition of Media Bias has necessarily changed, but I feel my perception of it has. Previously, I viewed Media Bias in a particularly negative light. I knew it was a way for a new outlet to present the news in a certain way that showed their ideas, but I had always seen Media Bias criticized in regards to certain newspapers' presentation on news from Israel. I now realize Media Bias doesn't seem inherently good or bad, but rather it just is. For the most part, every media news source is biased in some way, even if it's unintentional. It's run by humans and humans have certain biases. As long as the facts are presented, however, Media Bias doesn't have to be an inherently bad thing. It does create an issue of sometimes making it feel like it's on the reader/audience member to create the whole truth. It's important to realize where news comes from. In the future, for subjects I truly care about, I will look into the reliability of the outlet I'm getting the news from and will try and find a different perspective while researching. Obviously I won't do that for every single piece of news I see as that would be exhausting and would use up a lot of time. My definition of Media Bias hasn't changed, but my thoughts on it and realization of its scope have. For subjects I care about, I will try my best to look into the news outlet as well as find differing opinions to make sure I have the entire truth as well as a strong opinion. For the rest of the news, I will have to trust what I see and perhaps manage my Twitter better to make sure what does show up on my feed is already verified to begin with. It's not a flawless plan, but in the current age of the Internet and Media Bias, it's the only thing I can really do.

Student Example 4:

This Jewish history class has changed my perspective on how to read and interpret a news article. The articles we read in class gave me a better understanding on how reporters always put their opinion in the article. Media bias is very difficult to avoid when writing an article, the reporters do not always state all the facts. When a reporter does not state all the facts readers may be misinformed and take a side without knowing all the facts. I have learned to do more research the background story and find out if the article is coming from a reliable source. I will read other articles and compare them in order to see if their facts are similar. Reporters will state a majority of the facts but slightly twist them in a way that will make more people read the article. They will mix their opinion in with the article but it will not be noticeable. If they state their opinion it will misinform readers, since they have put their opinion in the article which is not part of the story. Their opinion may make a reader take a side without knowing that the story isn't completely factual. It has taught me to try and point out what is factual and what is opinion in order to come up with my own opinion based on just the facts of the story.

In the beginning of this section i did not have a firm understanding of what media bias was, now i have a better understanding of what it is. Media bias in my opinion is when an article does not state all the facts of a story and has a bit of the writer's opinion in the mix of it. When reporters write their articles in order to side with the popular idea and the majority is also media bias.

Articles will always have media bias in it, but most people do not know how to identify it when reading. I have learned to not always believe what articles say and to do more research and get more information to fully understand the story. This topic has changed my way of thinking and understanding articles immensely.