

Analyzing Bias

SWBAT:

- Write in a clear, concise, analytical format.
- Analyze bias in primary and secondary sources.

Task:

For one document, you must analyze the bias. As we know in history (and life), not all authors/sources give true and accurate accounts of events. You must take your understanding of the author and their background to determine the accuracy of their claims.

Criteria:

- Identify prejudice or preference in the author's writing.
Consider:
 - Does the author fall in line with the context (what events have been happening) of history?
 - Does the author try to persuade the reader in any particular direction?
 - Is the author exaggerating their view or experiences?
 - Does the author use negative language toward any particular group?
 - Has the author limited or left out important information?
 - Is the author using more opinions or facts?
- Identify several forming background traits or occupation of the author (*answer what you can from the document AND prior knowledge*).
Consider:
 - Youth – Religious home? Abused? Life altering events? Education level?
 - Gender – Male v. Female perspectives and treatment.
 - Occupation or Ideology – Factory owner? Worker? Religious figure? Politician? Rich? Poor? How do these ideas change the author's view of an event?
- Identify any significant differences in time from when the event occurred and when the author wrote/published their document.
 - Do they give a true first-hand account?
 - Did they wait a year or more to write about the event?
- Explain how each of these elements come together to prove the author is an unreliable source.

Rubric:

Criteria	0-1	2	3
Identify prejudice or preference in the author's writing (uses false information, missing key information, excessively persuasive [opinion v. facts]).	Did not identify prejudice or preference.		Identified prejudice or preference.
Identify several forming background information or occupation of the author.	Identifies few defining background traits and/or occupation of the author.	Identifies some defining background traits and/or occupation of the author.	Identifies several defining background traits and/or occupation of the author.
Identify any specific time differences between an event and the date of the writing/publication.	Does not identify time lapses (if present).		Identifies time lapses (if present).
Explain why the author could be considered unreliable or biased.	Does not explain if the author is unreliable or biased.	Explains, leaving out important details, if the author is unreliable or biased.	Explains in full detail if the author is unreliable or biased.