

## Assignment #2

For this assignment, I would like you to think about media bias. Select at least three different web-based news sources. Pick one you believe is generally unbiased, one with a conservative perspective, and one with a liberal perspective. On a specific day, examine the three sources and evaluate whether or not you think the news outlets show evidence of bias. Write a short paper (3-5 pages) that outlines the following:

1. What is bias?

Briefly discuss what you think constitutes media bias. Feel free to use sources (academic books, articles, etc.) to help you define bias.

2. Bias in story selection.

Read the headlines presented by each of your sources. Which news stories are featured in each source? How do the headlines describe the stories? Are there differences? Do these differences constitute bias?

3. Bias in story reporting.

Find a political topic that is featured in all three sources. Read news articles on this topic from all three sources. How does each news source report the story? Are there differences in how the stories are reported? Do these differences constitute bias?

4. Overall impressions.

Evaluate the overall level of bias that seems to be present in these news sources. Would a reader be fully informed if they read only one of these news sources?

The assignment is due February 25. The assignment will be graded based on its overall quality. Quality and quantity of references, clarity of writing, organization, and grammar will all be considered. You may cite your references any way you would like (endnotes/footnotes, MLA/AP, etc.) as long as you are consistent in citing the materials used in your paper.

Please submit your assignment via email, with working links provided for each of the three news articles you assess.

Let me know if you have any questions.