

Write On Wednesday with The Seattle Times

July 27, 2016

Learning Objectives

- Students will analyze newspaper articles to examine how bias plays a role in writing.
- Students will write an essay to examine the presence of bias in the news.

CCSS Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7-12.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

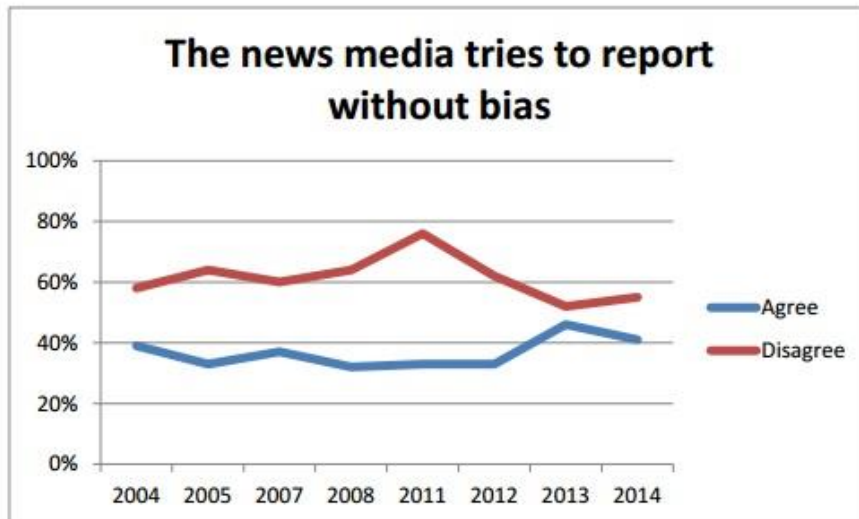
Materials

- **Wednesday, July 27, 2016** in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times
- **Computers (and/or pencil and paper)**
- **Dictionary**

Warm Up:

Take a few minutes to journal about the following question: What is bias?

Discuss your answers to this questions and determine a class definition. Once you have a definition, check it against a dictionary definition. Take a class poll on the following question: Does the news media try to report without bias? Compare your class findings to this 2014 of the general American public.



"The news media tries to report without bias", State of the First Amendment 2014, First Amendment Center, Washington, D.C.; May 2014, <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/madison/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/State-of-the-First-Amendment-2014-report-06-24-14.pdf>

Discuss both possible sides of the issue. Can you think of any particular events that might have contributed to the shifts the public's opinion over time on this issue? Is it possible to write without bias?

Reading:

On your own, read the article, "Clinton makes history with formal nomination" on page A1 of the Wednesday, July 27th, 2016 e-edition of The Seattle Times. Highlight or underline any parts of the article that seem like bias.

Discuss what you underlined with a partner or with the class. Why did you underline what you did? Whose bias is being shown here? Is there an overall bias to the article? How does bias play a role in politics? What other examples of bias can you think of? Search online to see if you can find any other examples of bias in today's news. See if you can find any news articles that you do not believe are biased.

Write On:

Using your warm-up activity as a starting place, write an essay on whether or not you think it is important for the newspaper to report unbiased information. In your essay, make sure to define what bias is, how it plays a role in news, how bias can be avoided, and what the pros or cons of biased news might be. You might also want to include concrete examples from The Seattle Times or from any other news sources that you have seen examples of bias in.