

Module 2: Critical Thinking

2.3 Media Literacy and Fake News

What is Media Bias?



The tendency of media to present information in a way that reflects a particular perspective or agenda.

Types of Media Bias

1. Bias by Labeling

Using loaded terms or labels.

Example: Describing a politician with positive or negative adjectives.

2. Bias by Spin

Presenting facts in a way that influences interpretation.

Example: Using biased words to influence opinions.

3. Bias by Omission

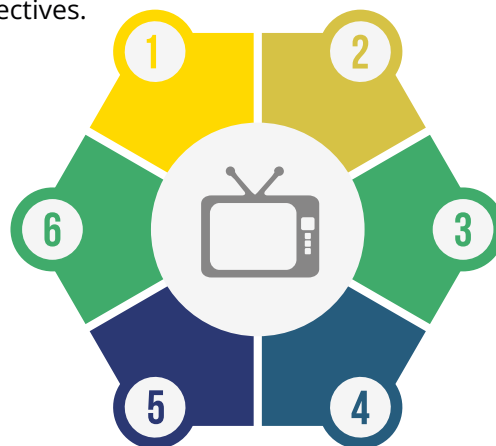
Leaving out important information or stories.

Example: Ignoring significant news events.

6. Bias by Placement

Placing news stories to emphasize certain information.

Example: Front-page placement for favored topics.



5. Bias by Story Selection

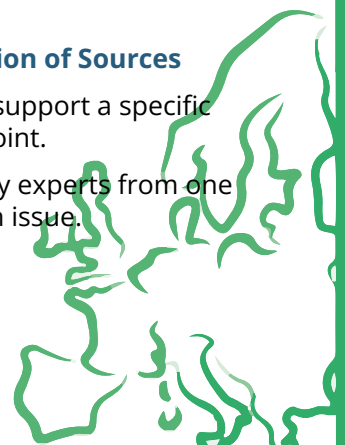
Highlighting news stories that align with a particular agenda.

Example: Focusing on negative news about a specific group.

4. Bias by Selection of Sources

Using sources that support a specific viewpoint.

Example: Quoting only experts from one side of an issue.



Identifying Media Bias

1. Check the Source

Tip: Research the publication's reputation and political alignment.

4. Examine Story Placement

Tip: Note the prominence and order of stories.



2. Analyze the Language

Tip: Look for emotionally charged or subjective language.

3. Cross-Reference Information

Tip: Compare with other reputable sources.

5. Consider Source Diversity

Tip: Assess whether multiple perspectives are represented.



Detecting and Handling Fake News

1

Recognize the Headline

Sensational Language: Proceed with caution - Check the source

Neutral Language: Move forward - Check the source

2

Check the Source

Reputable Source: Likely trustworthy - Verify the facts

Unknown Source: Proceed with caution - Investigate the website

3

Investigate the Website

Professional Design, Contact Info: Likely trustworthy - Verify the facts

Unprofessional Design, No Contact Info: Proceed with caution - Look for author credentials

4

Look for Author Credentials

Credible Author: Likely trustworthy - Verify the facts

No Author or Unverified Credentials: Proceed with caution - Cross-reference information

5

Verify the Facts

Consistent with Reliable Sources: Likely true - Share responsibly

Inconsistent Information: Proceed with caution - Check for bias

6

Check for Bias

Balanced View: Likely trustworthy - Share responsibly

One-Sided View: Proceed with caution - Use fact-checking tools

7

Use Fact-Checking Tools

Verified by Fact-Checkers: Likely true - Share responsibly

Debunked by Fact-Checkers: Likely fake - Do not share, report if necessary

