Identifying Bias

Use this chart to help you remember the tips for identifying bias in primary and secondary resources.

Bias & A Credible Source
- what do you know about the author/publisher?
- Is there advertisements?
- Is there a political angle?
- Is the language overly positive or negative?
- who is the intended audience?
- what is the purpose of the source?

Bias & An Accurate Source
- Old information used when newer information is available?
- No sources provided for content?
- Language includes vague generalizations, hyperbole, strong emotion?

Bias & A Balanced Source
- Does the information include more than one point of view?
- Does the source avoid harsh, accusatory, or derogatory language?
- Primary sources generally are not balanced...that’s OK
- Good secondary sources will be balanced.

Bias & A Supported Source
- Does the source provide a list of sources used?
- Yes! are the sources varied?
- No!, this may not be a reliable source.
- Good sources are evidence-based.

Bias Matters!
- Shows author perspective
- Identifies possible external influence
- Encourages critical evaluation of sources

REFERENCES

