

# Bias & Sources

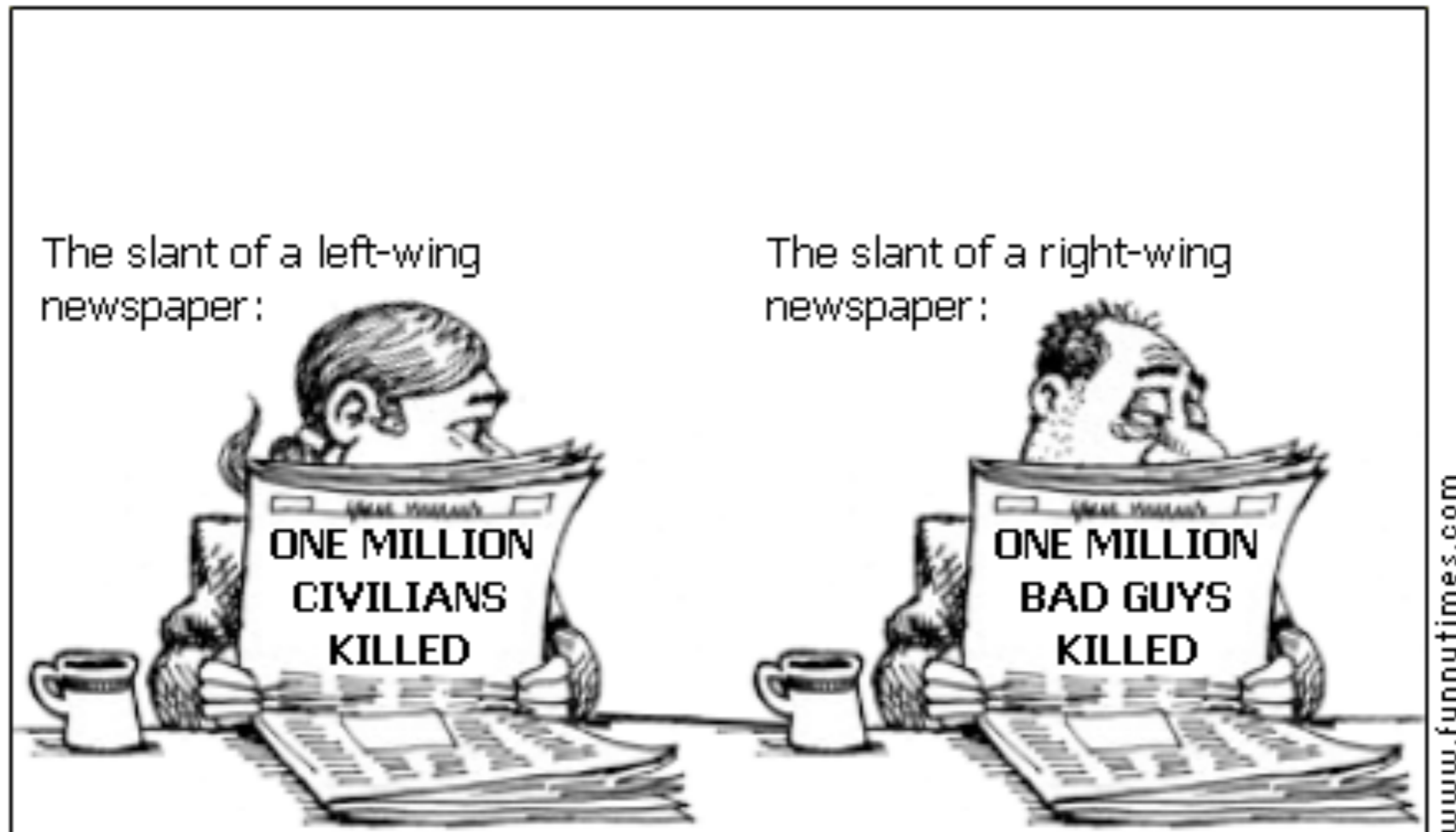
HZT4U1 – Mr. A. Wittmann – Unit 2 – Lecture 5



# Bias

- Bias refers to having an unbalanced opinion or tendency toward a certain point of view.

## **Skewed News** by Eric Perlin



# Bias (continued)

- In the humanities, people express their opinions, thus, we must be very careful to watch out for bias.
- But, Bias is not necessarily a bad thing.
- Very useful for discovering what people believed or thought about a particular subject.

# Bias (continued)

Recognize bias by asking...

1. Who wrote the source?

2. Who was their intended audience?

3. Why were they writing the source?

4. When did they write the source?

# Historiographic Example of Scholarly Bias

19th century scholarship of Alexander the Great

Germans

British

pro-Alexander

anti-Alexander

Why?

Why?

Bias?

Bias?

# Bias (continued)

- Try to find evidence from lots of different sources so that one can form a balanced opinion.
- In academic research, bias is found in both primary and secondary sources.

# Types of Sources

1. Primary & Secondary
2. Scholarly
3. News & General Interest
4. Popular

# Primary Sources

- Original works created by an individual or group of people.
- Fictional or non fictional literature
- Written about a topic directly from the author's knowledge of the topic, but not including interpretations of others.

# Examples of Primary Sources

letters

novels

films

short stories

plays

poems

photographs

court cases

speeches

interviews

public records

experiments

treatises

personal essays

original commentaries

etc.

# Secondary Sources

- Written about primary sources which analyze, interpret, and discuss information about the primary source.
- Information is not original, but it is analyzed.
- Most research papers are based on secondary sources as they build on the research of others.

# Examples of Secondary Sources

journal articles  
textbooks  
encyclopaedias  
dictionaries

reviews  
newspaper articles  
research essays  
etc.

# Scholarly Sources

- Also called academic, peer-reviewed, or refereed journals.
- Submitted articles are peer reviewed by other scholars, experts, academics in the field for review and comment.
- All reviewers must agree that the article represents properly conducted original research or writing before it can be published.

# Scholarly Sources (continued)

- Articles often have an abstract, a descriptive summary of the article contents, before the main text of the article.
- Articles are written by a scholar in the field or by someone who has done research in the field.

# Scholarly Sources (continued)

- ① Always cite their sources in the form of footnotes or bibliographies, citing other scholarly writings
- ① The language of scholarly journals is that of the discipline covered. It assumes some technical background on the part of the reader.

# Scholarly Sources (continued)

- The main purpose of a scholarly journal is to report on original research or experimentation in order to make such information available to the rest of the scholarly world.
- Many scholarly journals are published by a specific professional organization.

# Scholarly Sources (continued)

## • Some examples of scholarly sources...

American Economic Review  
Applied Geography  
The Journal of the American Medical Association  
American Journal of Archaeology  
Journal of Marriage and the Family  
Journal of Theoretical Biology  
Modern Fiction Studies  
Journal of Hellenic Studies  
Classical Antiquity

Journal of Ethical Studies  
American Journal of Psychology  
New England Journal of Medicine  
Journal of Bioethics  
British Journal of the Philosophy of Science  
Journal of Philosophical Research  
Journal of Indian Philosophy  
Journal of Chinese Antiquity  
Journal of Philosophic Psychology  
Indo-European Studies

## • In university you will only use scholarly sources.

# News or General Interest

- May be quite attractive in appearance, although some are in newspaper format.
- Usually don't cite sources.
- Articles may be written by a member of the editorial staff or journalist.

# News or General Interest

(Continued)

- No specialty is assumed, only interest and a certain level of intelligence.
- Generally published by commercial enterprises or individuals, although some emanate from specific professional organizations.

# News or General Interest

---

(Continued)

- The main purpose of periodicals in this category is to provide information, in a general manner, to a broad audience of concerned citizens.
- Some examples are...

The Economist  
National Geographic  
Toronto Star  
Globe & Mail

The New York Times  
Scientific American  
Maclean's  
Time

# Popular Periodicals

- Come in many formats, although often slick and attractive in appearance with lots photographs, drawings, etc.
- Do not cite sources in a bibliography and information is second or third hand.
- The original source is rarely mentioned.

# Popular Periodicals

(Continued)

- Articles are usually very short and written in simple language.
- The main purpose of popular periodicals is to entertain the reader, to sell products.
- Some examples are...

Hello  
Elle  
Vogue

People  
Sports Illustrated  
Rolling Stone

# Sources Video



The End!