

the process of identifying bias in materials...

- Are certain words and illustrations systematically associated with specific groups of people?
- Are groups of people frequently limited to certain jobs and activities?
- How do authors and illustrators account for people's situations in life, and social problems in general?
- What value judgements regarding personal worth are conveyed?
- Is there implicit bias through the omission of groups of people who might have been included, given the setting?
- Does the author deny the right to human dignity and the development of potential on grounds of race, culture, sex, ability, age or social class etc.?

## 5 W's for Evaluating Web Sites

### Who

Who wrote the pages and are they an expert?  
Is a biography of the author included?  
How can you find out more about the author?

### What

What does the author say is the purpose of the site?  
What else might the author have in mind for the site?  
What makes the site easy to use?

### When

When was the site created?  
When was the site last updated?

### Where

Where does the information come from?  
Where can I look to find out more about the producer/sponsor?

### Why

Why is this information useful for my purpose?  
Why should I use this information?  
Why is this page better than another?

## Dictionary.com

**Bias:** A preference or an inclination, especially one that inhibits impartial judgment. An unfair act or policy stemming from prejudice. To influence in a particular, typically unfair direction; prejudice. Inclined to one side. In a slanting manner.

**Subjective:** Proceeding from or taking place in a person's mind rather than the external world: *a subjective decision*. Particular to a given person; personal: *subjective experience*.

**Objective:** Uninfluenced by emotions or personal prejudices: *an objective critic*.  
See Synonyms at <sup>1</sup>.  
Based on observable phenomena; presented factually: *an objective appraisal*.

**Opinion:** A belief or conclusion held with confidence but not substantiated by positive knowledge or proof: "The world is not run by thought, nor by imagination, but by opinion" (Elizabeth Drew).

**Fact:** Knowledge or information based on real occurrences: *an account based on fact; a blur of fact and fancy*. Something demonstrated to exist or known to have existed: *Genetic engineering is now a fact. That Chaucer was a real person is an undisputed fact*. A real occurrence; an event: *had to prove the facts of the case*. Something believed to be true or real: *a document laced with mistaken facts*.