



Name: _____ Period: _____

"Bias and Point of View" Active Listening Exercise

INSTRUCTIONS: While listening to the video fill in the note sheet below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MOQo0j_k3c

What is bias/point of view? What are you being asked to look at considering an author's bias?

Why does the bias/point of view matter when reading a text?

What does the statement, "every text has a bias" mean?

What does the statement, "bias is not inherently bad" mean?

What do good readers and consumers of information do?

What does S.O.A.P.S.tone stand for, and how does it help in evaluating the bias of a text?

Evaluating Arguments

Name: _____ Period: _____

Determining Purpose, Viewpoint, and Bias

Analyzing Structure/Organization Exercise

Use your notes to analyze and identify the structure and purpose of the following examples

List/Classify	Definition/Example	Compare/Contrast	Cause/Effect	Problem/Solution
Counter-Argument/Rebuttal	Premise/Support/Conclusion		Narrative/Anecdotal	

Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ Because the car was old, the engine overheated, leaving them stranded on the side of the road, resulting in them missing the wedding.

Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ The Iphone's user interface is more intuitive than the android phones, making it a better phone for first time smart phone buyers.

Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ There are several tips I follow to get good sleep: drink no caffeine, no smoking, no watching television in bed, and good exercise.

Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ Sleep bruxism, also know as nocturnal tooth grinding, is the medical term for clenching or grinding teeth during sleep.

Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ A family of three tomatoes were walking downtown one day when the little baby tomato started lagging behind. The big father tomato walks back to the baby tomato, stomps on her, squashing her into a red paste, and says, "Ketchup!"

Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ Proponents of gun control may argue that less guns will lower crime rates; however, what they fail to consider is the constitutional rights of citizens to bear arms to defend themselves from criminal violence

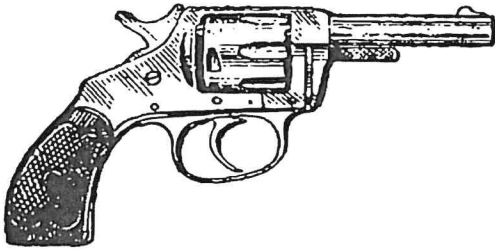
Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ If computer keeps crashing because of being infected by viruses, you can avoid these issues with internet, anti-virus software downloads.

Structure: _____ Purpose: _____ If we don't make efforts to control emissions, then environment will experience radical climate changes. The environment is experiencing strong climate shifts. Therefore we should make efforts to control emissions.

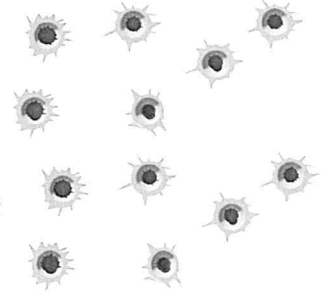
Evaluating Arguments

Name: _____ Period: _____
Determining Purpose, Viewpoint, and Bias

Loaded Language/Words



Powerful words and phrases that reveal the viewpoint or opinion of the author. Loaded words are often used to inspire a certain response (pos. or neg.) within the audience.



Loaded Language/Words Exercise

In the passages below, circle the words that reveal viewpoint or inspire certain emotions

“If books show us the world, teen fiction can be like a hall of fun-house mirrors, constantly reflecting back hideously distorted portrayals of what life is. There are of course exceptions, but a careless young reader—or one who seeks out depravity—will find himself surrounded by images not of joy or beauty but of damage, brutality and losses of the most horrendous kinds.”

-Meghan Cox Gurdon (Wall Street Journal, June 2011)-

What is the subject of this text? _____. What is the text’s purpose? PERSUADE INFORM ENTERTAIN

What do these words reveal about the viewpoint/opinion/bias of the author concerning this subject? (explain)

And I find it amusing (and somewhat disconcerting) that people make excuses to escape whoever they are supposed to be spending time with so that they can check in with other people who may not even be real-life friends. I like going out to dinner with friends and am bewildered at how many people put their phone on the table and if it vibrates they interrupt whatever is going on to tap a few keys and return to the conversation

-Dr. Larry Rosen (Huffington Post, October 2014)-

What is the subject of this text? _____. What is the text’s purpose? PERSUADE INFORM ENTERTAIN

What do these words reveal about the viewpoint/opinion/bias of the author concerning this subject? (explain)

Evaluating Arguments

Name: _____ Period: _____

Determining Purpose, Viewpoint, and Bias

Facts vs. Opinions Exercise

Use your notes to determine the facts and opinions in the following passages. Underline the facts, circle any words that indicate bias/opinion, and place brackets around the author's opinions.

Twilight is a series of four vampire-themed fantasy romance novels by American author Stephenie Meyer. It charts a period in the life of Isabella "Bella" Swan, a teenage girl who moves to Forks, Washington, and falls in love with a 104-year-old vampire named Edward Cullen. Although it has been wildly popular, it could be one of the most poorly written examples of young adult literature. The series has sold millions of copies and grossed incredible returns in the box office as a movie adaptation, despite its shallow character development and scattered plot-line.

What do the opinion statements reveal about the author's viewpoint? _____

NFL Football is wildly entertaining and quite possibly the best way to spend a quiet Sunday afternoon. Up until the 1960s, the NFL was the dominant professional football league and faced little competition. Recently the sport has come under attack because of concerns over violence and long-term injury. Injuries can happen in any sport, and those who desire to limit the contact in the sport are ridiculous to even suggest changing America's greatest sporting competition. The NFL is and always will be an amazing spectacle of athleticism and intense competition.

What do the opinion statements reveal about the author's viewpoint? _____

Lotteries and gambling are horrible ways to generate revenue for government funds or for even a local fundraiser. All state lotteries and gambling institutions should reconsider their practices and possibly be made illegal as forms of revenue. Lotteries, like any form of gambling, are susceptible to fraud, despite the high degree of scrutiny claimed by the organizers. Numerous lottery scams exist, and are used to generate funds for corrupt or even illegal activities. Some advance fee fraud scams on the Internet are based on lotteries. The fraud starts with spam congratulating the recipient on their recent lottery win. The email explains that in order to release funds the email recipient must part with a certain amount (as tax/fees) as per the rules or risk forfeiture.

What do the opinion statements reveal about the author's viewpoint? _____

Evaluating Arguments

Name: _____ Period: _____

Determining Purpose, Viewpoint, and Bias

Purpose and Viewpoint/Bias Exercise

Use your notes to determine the purpose and viewpoint of this text. Look for patterns of structure/organization of text, loaded language, and use of facts and opinions. Label any internal structures you find, circle loaded words within the text, underline facts, and bracket opinion statements. Answer the questions on the following page.

The global warming controversy is the public debate over whether global warming is occurring, how much has occurred in modern times, what has caused it, what its effects will be, whether any action should be taken to curb it, and if so what that action should be. Primary issues concerning the existence and cause of climate change include 1) the reasons for the increase seen in the instrumental temperature record, whether the warming trend exceeds normal climatic variations, and 2) whether human activities have contributed significantly to it. In the scientific literature, there is an overwhelming consensus that global surface temperature has increased in recent decades and that the trend is caused primarily by the irresponsible, human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases. No valid or authentic scientific body of national or international standing disagrees with this view, though a few organizations with members in profit-obsessed, fuel industries hold non-committal positions. Most likely these organizations feel threatened by the potential truth of global warming and losing revenue from fossil based fuels, and as a result, they attempt to mislead the public for corporate profit. These corrupt attempts to deceive the public and distort the facts should be confronted and subject to prosecution.

It is amazing that any scientist could ignore the recorded evidence and attempt to construct a legitimate rebuttal. However, some scientist may argue that the climate has changed before. They propose, the climate is always changing. Their reasoning examines that, we have had ice ages and warmer periods when alligators were found in Spitzbergen. Ice ages have occurred in a hundred thousand year cycle for the last 700 thousand years, and there have been previous periods that appear to have been warmer than the present despite CO₂ levels being lower than they are now. However a close scientific analysis of past climates shows that greenhouse gasses, principally CO₂, have controlled most ancient climate changes. The evidence for that is spread throughout the geological record. This makes it clear that this time around humans are the cause, mainly by our CO₂ emissions. Any attempt to disguise these facts is intentionally placing our planet and humanity in grave danger, and therefore the offenders should face consequences.

The sources of funding for those involved with climate science – both supporting and opposing mainstream scientific positions – have been questioned by both sides. There are debates about the best policy responses to the science, their cost-effectiveness and their urgency. Climate scientists, especially in the US, have reported official and oil-industry pressure to censor or suppress their work and hide scientific data, with directives not to discuss the subject in public communications. Legal cases regarding global warming, its effects, and measures to reduce it, have reached American courts. The fossil fuels lobby and free market think tanks have often been identified as overtly or covertly supporting efforts to undermine or discredit the scientific consensus on global warming. These attempts to suppress truth and facts are malicious, fraudulent, corrupt, and should be punished.

Evaluating Arguments

Name: _____ Period: _____

Determining Purpose, Viewpoint, and Bias p. 2

Purpose and Viewpoint/Bias Exercise

Use your notes to determine the purpose and viewpoint of this text. Look for patterns of structure/organization of text, loaded language, and use of facts and opinions. Answer the questions on the following page.

What internal structures/organization patterns are apparent in the text? What is the author's purpose?

Structure: _____ Evidence from text: _____

Purpose: _____

Structure: _____ Evidence from text: _____

Purpose: _____

List the strongest "loaded words" found in the text and discuss what they reveal about author's bias and viewpoint.

Loaded Word: _____ Bias: _____

Loaded Word: _____ Bias: _____

Loaded Word: _____ Bias: _____

Loaded Word: _____ Bias: _____

Loaded Word: _____ Bias: _____

How does the author use facts vs. opinions? List some of the opinion statements and their bias

Opinion statement from text: _____

Bias: _____

How does the author use facts vs. opinions? List some of the opinion statements and their bias

Opinion statement from text: _____

Bias: _____

How does the author use facts vs. opinions? List some of the opinion statements and their bias

Opinion statement from text: _____

Bias: _____

In a sentence explain the author's purpose and bias/viewpoint on the subject: _____

