

# Bias

To understand bias we have to know a few key terms:

**Perspective:** to understand something through your own senses and logic. Your point of view.

**Facts:** unbiased and certain information about reality.

**Opinions:** judgments, beliefs, and views about reality.

**Bias:** the presentation of an issue from a single point of view.

When we are being biased we are not presenting information in a factual way without taking sides, but are making an argument based on our own opinions and perspectives about a topic or issue.

For example: someone who does not like dogs might say that “all dogs are vicious”, making a statement based on their own view rather than on facts.

## Bias Detective

Here are six statements from reporters who are writing about a new mayor- Gregory Harris. Pretend your are the editor of a newspaper. Your job is to see if they are making biased statements based on their own perspective and opinion of the mayor. If a statement is biased cross it out in red. If it is not, circle it in green.

1. "Mr. Harris will bring nothing but trouble to Valley City."
2. "Gregory Harris is the new mayor of Valley City, bringing with him over 10 years of experience in leadership roles..."
3. "72% voted for Gregory Harris, making him the new mayor of Valley City."
4. "Gregory Harris is the best thing that has ever happened to Valley City."
5. "There has been both positive and negative feedback from the community, some people think Mr. Harris will be good for Valley City and others think he will not."
6. "I think Gregory will be very successful as mayor."