

Analyzing Media Bias

Choose two different news organizations and read one article from each organization (it would be great if you could read the same story covered by each different organization). As you read, complete the following chart:

Article 1:

Title: _____

News Organization: _____

Positively Connotative Words		Negatively Connotative Words	
Word:	Context:	Word:	Context:

Article 2:

Title: _____

News Organization: _____

Positively Connotative Words		Negatively Connotative Words	
Word:	Context:	Word:	Context:

Now, let's dig deeper! Choose one word that you from each article above and answer the following questions about the word.

	Article 1 Word: _____	Article 2 Word: _____
1. Context: What are the circumstance surrounding the word? How is it being used? what is it describing?		
2. Denotation of the word: What is the literal meaning of the word (the dictionary definition)?		
3. Connotation of the word: What is the implied meaning of the word? What is suggested by the word or phrase? What does it bring to mind? What concrete connections can you make between the word and real-life experience?		
4. Emotions the author wants the reader to experience: What feelings are stirred by the word? Begin by categorizing the feelings as positive or negative, but then try to identify a more specific feeling, such as happiness, anger, compassion, fear, revulsion, guilt, sadness, loneliness, self-worth, confidence, pity, surprise, dread, shock, delight, love, etc.		

	Article 1 Word: _____	Article 2 Word: _____
Effects the author is trying to create: What does the author want the audience to think, to feel, to do? What kind of connection does he want us to make?		
Explanation of the effect: How does this particular word, image, or detail support the author's claim within the text?		

Choose another word from each article and complete the chart again for that word.

	Article 1 Word: _____	Article 2 Word: _____
1. Context: What are the circumstance surrounding the word? How is it being used? what is it describing?		
2. Denotation of the word: What is the literal meaning of the word (the dictionary definition)?		
3. Connotation of the word: What is the implied meaning of the word? What is suggested by the word or phrase? What does it bring to mind? What concrete connections can you make between the word and real-life experience?		

	Article 1 Word: _____	Article 2 Word: _____
4. Emotions the author wants the reader to experience: What feelings are stirred by the word? Begin by categorizing the feelings as positive or negative, but then try to identify a more specific feeling, such as happiness, anger, compassion, fear, revulsion, guilt, sadness, loneliness, self-worth, confidence, pity, surprise, dread, shock, delight, love, etc.		
Effects the author is trying to create: What does the author want the audience to think, to feel, to do? What kind of connection does he want us to make?		
Explanation of the effect: How does this particular word, image, or detail support the author's claim within the text?		

Based on the evidence you just collected, what conclusion can you come to about the political views of these two news organizations? Do you believe that media truly is bias? If so, how so? Write a paragraph answering these questions! Be sure to include supporting details and evidence from your work here to support your argument!