

# Reading Paper 1

Learning Objectives:

To be able to identify bias in a piece of writing.

To be able to analyse the influence of bias in a text.

# Bias

Bias is putting across an unfair or unbalanced opinion.



**Sports journalists need to be very careful of **bias**. As reporters they need to write fairly and accurately. They need to be **objective**. This means that they must not be biased in any way. They must report the facts, not their opinions.**

**This is an account of a football match between Manchester United and Arsenal. Manchester United lost 4-0.**



**Arsenal were so lucky in this match. The superb and skilful Man United players were beaten by the lucky, cheating Arsenal players. The referee was totally biased, he allowed four goals that were all off side. I have never seen so much luck and cheating.**

Bias is where someone shows a personal opinion about something. We can recognise bias by finding unbalanced opinions. Bias is useful to us as it helps us to find out a person's beliefs.

If someone supports a particular football team, they are likely to show bias when describing a match. Everything their team does would be described as fantastic , and everything the opposing team does would be described as terrible or lucky .

- 1. Find all the powerful words used to describe the Man Utd goals in this extract from the article.**
- 2. Find the words used to describe Roma's goal in this extract.**

**A scintillating display by Manchester United saw them tear Roma apart to reach the Champions League semi-finals.**

**Michael Carrick curled in United's opener and Alan Smith fired home before Wayne Rooney added their third of the night, finishing off a superb move. Cristiano Ronaldo fired into the bottom corner and slid home a Ryan Giggs cross before Carrick smashed home a sixth.**

**Roma replied through Daniele De Rossi before Patrice Evra's low shot rounded off United's amazing 8-3 aggregate win.**

# Go through the 6 steps

- Identifying the key features in a text.
- 1 –read the entire text
- 2 – identify the PAF
- 3 – identify the key points in each paragraph
- 4 – identify and highlight any linguistic devices
- 5 – re-read the text to make sure you've not missed anything.
- 6- decide on what your own thoughts are on the subject of the text.

**IT IS proven** that animals are required in order to make some **meaningful** and **necessary** advancements in medical science. As an **animal lover**, I am extremely **torn** by the prospect of animals suffering so that I and others may live. That said, when **driven** to make the choice, I make it in favour of medical science. I believe that the animals are required for research if the human race is to survive, and that they should be used in situations where there is no alternative.

Those who have succeeded in stopping the research being effected in Cambridge, where animals would have been treated as humanely as possible, should now be prepared to face the consequences of this research moving abroad – possibly to countries where **cats and dogs are eaten** as human food and where **their mode of death is too horrific to think about**.

Furthermore it would be interesting to record how these people react when either they or somebody close to them is stricken by a disease for which there is no known cure, thanks to their lack of sense and foresight.

**B.F. Orme**

*The Times*, 6 February 2005

**IT CAN never be right** to gain at the expense of another. **Human progress does not lie in finding a cure for cancer by killing 10,000 animals**; it lies in realising the cure for cancer is not worth the life of a single animal. It is our capacity to be compassionate that sets us apart from other species. Even if medical progress were made, these methods would be appalling and base.

Animal experimentation is also **unscientific** and **unreliable**. It would be far better for everyone if the money that is wasted on **cruel** and **pointless** animal experiments were spent on scientific epidemiological research whenever a new drug is produced. Non-violence is the goal of evolution, and we are still **savages** until we stop **harming** other sentient beings.

**Kate Fitzgibbon, Morayshire**  
*The Times*, 6 February 2005

# Necessary Evil

- You have two letters in front of you. The writers are responding to the news that Cambridge University's building plans for new animal research laboratories have been abandoned, due to public pressure.
- Some of the words have been highlighted to help you explain the biased standpoint of the writers.
- *Compare Letters 1 and 2 explaining how the writers have used bias to influence the reader.*

*(8 marks)*

*Compare Letters 1 and 2 explaining how the writers have used bias to influence the reader.*  
*(8 marks)*

- Both letters use bias to influence the reader. Letter 1 argues that ..... However, Letter 2 argues that .....
- Bias can be identified in letter 1 when the writer says ..... This shows bias because ..... This influences the reader because .....
- However in letter 2 .....
- Also in letter 1, the writer ..... This is similar/different to letter 2 when the writer of letter 2 says .....
- Although the bias is being used to argue different things, the effect is the same in that both letters try to influence the readers into agreeing with their point of view.