

Group Work: Bias + Logical Fallacies

This week we've been discussing paragraphs in more specific details and then, today, looking closely at the role of bias and logical fallacies in writing. For your papers, these are skills you are going to want to have in your toolbox in order to do good work in college. While doing research especially, carefully look at the role of bias in the research you read.

For today's group assignment, get into groups as usual. We will break this into two sections: the first will be on bias and the second on logical fallacies. Answer these questions in your groups and be prepared to go over them as a class. We will work for about 10 minutes and then go over them.

Bias

Some of these statements are facts; some of them are opinions. Identify each with a "fact" or "opinion" next to it.

1. The number of politicians who had to resign due to improprieties tripled during the last two years

2. The Internet would be much safer for children if each and every webpage gave information about violence, sexual content, and language.

3. Get out the vote efforts in urban settings have raised the percentage of citizens who voted last election to its highest in years.

4. Women who have children and remain at home are happier and more fulfilled than "career women."

5. Lake Hopatcong is the largest lake in the state of New Jersey.

Logical Fallacies

The following sentences have serious logical fallacies. Identify what they are and what sort of logical fallacy (see 86-87 in Wadsworth)

6. General Smith won the Battle at Lake Cerusoz, so he will be a great president.

7. Without 50 billion dollars for a missile defense system, America will be attacked by terrorists within a year.

8. It's obvious to everyone the only way to deal with a hyperactive child is to heavily medicate them.

9. There are too many minorities immigrating to America; we should close our borders before we are a minority!

10. The United States sold gold to Iran. This is what caused the price of gold to rise so much in the past year.
