



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

1.22 Recognizing Slanted Words II

Objectives

Create an awareness of how the slanting of verbs and nouns can be used to depict people favorably or unfavorably.

Identify instances of slanting in online news media.

Materials needed

Pen and paper or copies of the handout

Internet access

Time needed

Ten to twenty minutes

Instructor directions

Have your students conduct some Internet research before class and bring an article describing a political, military, religious, or social activist organization or incident.

Ask them to be ready to discuss the use of slanting in the article.



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

1.22 Recognizing Slanted Words II Handout

Directions

Before class, do some Internet research and bring an article describing a political, military, religious, or social activist organization or incident.

Answer the following questions:

What verbs are used to describe the actions of each of the participating groups or parties?

What connotations (implications) do the verbs carry?

What nouns and pronouns are used to describe each of the participating groups or parties?

What connotations do the words carry?

Are each of the participating groups or parties presented with the same level of formality, familiarity, or respect?

How are direct quotes used to present the groups or parties favorably or unfavorably?

What is the proportion of subjective to objective verbs? Nouns?

What is the reporter's or news service's attitude, demeanor, or tone toward each of the parties?

How does this attitude, demeanor, or tone affect readers' perceptions of the events being reported? How does it reflect on the objectivity of the reporter or news service?