Editor’s Desk Activity

# Summary

In the Editor’s Desk Activity (adapted from [KQED Teach](https://teach.kqed.org/)’s Identifying Media Bias exercise), small groups of patrons are given three news articles from different organizations relating to the same subject or event and evaluate each for bias. The goal is for patrons to recognize biased language and story-framing and how it shapes their understanding of the context of the article.

# Materials

You will need three articles on the same event or subject. One article should be left leaning, one right, and one more towards the center.

A good resource to locate articles is AllSides (<https://www.allsides.com/>). It batches together three articles (left, right, and center) on a variety of current news stories. If you’d like to determine the possible bias of a specific news source, Media Bias/Fact Check (<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>) is a good place to see how an organization fits on a spectrum of bias.

# Activity

Have patrons read through the three articles. These headlines and articles are about the same event. How are they different? What words or phrases show the writer’s bias? Is there a way that the story is framed which leads to a particular conclusion? If you only read one, would you have a different understanding of the event than if you read all three?

# Discussion

Discuss responses to the headlines and articles. Participants will likely identify words or phrases that have a positive or negative connotation. If applicable, contrast the right-leaning and left-leaning headline with the center headline. This headline may be more neutral than the other two or it may include elements of bias from both sides.