



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

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## Four Signs of Bias in Reporting

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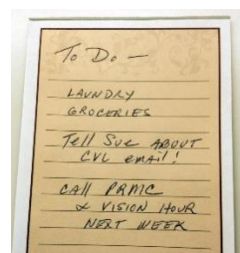
**Education:** "...the first ideals of good journalism - that news reports must be fair, accurate and unbiased." (1) Unfortunately, bias in reporting is widely practiced and recognized. (2) Bias in reporting can be done by choosing what to report, who to quote, and what terminology to use. One example of a report on pregnancy help centers interviews a pro-choice campus representative on their techniques. He implies that the only thing the centers do is to push students away from abortion to adoption. She goes to the center and says she is "alarmed by the amount of falsehoods I just heard"— but none are seen in the video, and none quoted. (3)

So how do you detect bias? First of all, terms such as "abortion rights" and "anti-abortion" rather than "pro-abortion" or "pro-life" are an immediate clue. Then, what is their source of information? Do they interview primarily pro-choice activists or abortion providers? Unfortunately, even respected organizations may have a pro-abortion position. A more subtle evidence of bias is assigning motivation. (4) The report on pregnancy centers mentioned that after a negative pregnancy test, the reporter was given a brochure about the dangers of being exposed to sexually transmitted infections. She referred to that as "slut-shaming", and expressed resentment about being given a lecture on her sexual life, although the words used by the client advocate were not on the video. (3) The strongest evidence would seem to be making statements not backed up by facts, as in the example above, stating that falsehoods were made, but not saying what falsehoods.

1. [https://www.azquotes.com/author/3422-Walter\\_Cronkite](https://www.azquotes.com/author/3422-Walter_Cronkite)
2. <https://www.mediabiaschart.com>
3. <https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/mtv-has-joined-in-the-attack-against-pro-life-pregnancy-centers>
4. <https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/4-ways-to-spot-abortion-bias-in-your-news-feed>



**Prayer:** Dear Father God, please help everyone to understand the bias that is present in so much of news reporting. Help pregnancy centers to be wise in advertising truthfully even while they try to show how they welcome clients interested in abortion. Help the general public to be aware of all the services offered by centers to truly serve women not only with good information on all the options available to them, but with continuing help throughout the pregnancy and emotional support so that they need not face the difficulties of their pregnancy alone.



**Action:** Be aware of the bias in many news sources, and watch for unfair reporting. Express to your friends your dismay at how pregnancy centers are depicted poorly in the media. When you see a biased report, be ready to explain to your friends how they are biased, particularly if they state facts that are not supported by any evidence. Go to reference # 4 above to follow links to two other examples of biased reporting, as well as the one described in reference # 3.