Bias in Experiments

Could bias have influenced the outcome of the cocoa lab?

INCLUDE Evidence from the Lab and PICTURES!!

If so, what bias rating would you give it, and what kind of bias was it?

Bias Reading Notes

How do scientists identify bias in experiments?

EVIDENCE (Quotes from Text)	INTERPRETATION (thoughts, connections, questions)
Vitamin A reading	
Bias is Everywhere	
Bias Rating	

Science Notebook Layout **DON'T COPY UNDERLINED TEXT**

Mrs. Aguirre's Webpage: http://www.quia.com/profiles/caguirre

Bias Reading for Page 27 Notes

WORKSHEET

20 RESEARCHING SKILLS

Identifying Bias

Suppose that while researching nutrition, you run across the following:

> Vitamin A is an important nutrient. It is used to make rhodopsin, a pigment in our eyes. Thus, Vitamin A is necessary for healthy vision. People can develop night blindness if they do not get enough of it. Carrots are an excellent source of vitamin A. Carrots should be a part of your daily diet.

At first, this paragraph seems to offer good information. Would you be more skeptical if you learned that it was written by people who grow carrots commercially? How would your opinion change? Explain your answer below.

_____

_____

_____

Bias Is Everywhere

Bias is a subjective way of thinking that tells only one side of a story, sometimes leading to inaccurate information or a false impression. When you research, it is crucial that you identify the level of bias in potential sources. Below are some possible sources of bias.

- The writer is relying on incomplete information.
- The writer is trying to deceive the reader.
- The writer wants to believe what he or she is saying.
- The writer's past experience is influencing his or her thinking.
- The writer is trying to persuade the reader.

In the passage above, the writer does not mention that ingesting too much vitamin A can make people sick. The writer fails to tell the reader that eggs and sweet potatoes are also good sources of vitamin A.

Bias Rating

When reading information, think about what possible bias might be distorting the facts. You might use a scale such as the following:

1 = almost totally unbiased; highly objective; accurate
2 = mostly unbiased; fairly reliable
3 = somewhat biased; accuracy is questionable
4 = fairly biased; distorted; probably unreliable
5 = totally biased; highly subjective; inaccurate

Bias Reading Notes

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