

## Media Literacy Mini-Lesson #9

# POINT-OF-VIEW AND BIAS

We all have **points-of-view** and **biases**. A core principle of journalism is to understand bias and prevent it from interfering with fairness and accuracy.

### POINT-OF-VIEW IS...



- How we view events based on our values, life experiences, and interests

### BIAS IN JOURNALISM IS...



- Unfair or unbalanced reporting that favors one point-of-view
- Reporting that excludes key facts about events or individuals



### Everybody has a point-of-view, but...

Responsible journalism requires that the journalist consider their own biases to ensure that they are being fair, accurate, and responsible to the story and their subjects.

### The problem with bias

Bias is a problem when journalists include only partial information about an event or leave out viewpoints of certain individuals. Bias in journalism can give readers an incomplete or distorted sense of what is happening in the world — it can lead to misinformation. Even worse, intentional manipulation of the facts is called *disinformation*.



The following source from an editorial (opinion piece) written shortly after the US declared war on Japan during World War II.



Detroit Evening Times. Detroit, Mich., Dec. 8, 1941. Library of Congress

How would you describe the point-of-view of this editorial? What details offer clues about the point-of-view?

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Do you think this editorial shows bias? Why or why not?

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