**Finding Bias**

*Name:*

*Story Headline:*

*Directions:*  Using the story provided, read through the story looking for any examples of bias you may be able to find. For each type of bias listed below, consider the questions to help you find any examples in the story. Write down any examples of bias you find, and explain in one sentence why you think it’s biased. When you are done, switch stories with a partner who has a different story, and repeat the exercise.

Finally, work with your partner to compare what each of you found in the two stories. Do you agree on all the examples of bias you found? Why or why not?

**Bias by omission:** *What sources are present? What are missing? What perspectives or sides to the story aren’t being told? What information is missing that might change your view?*

**Bias by selection of sources:** *Which perspectives are present? Which ones are missing? Whose voices aren’t being heard? Who do you think should have been interviewed to give a more well-rounded story?*

**Bias by story selection:** *Is this story really important? Is the story treated with respect and neutrality? Is there a reason this story was printed now? Do you think there could be any other agenda behind telling this story now?*

**Bias by word choice:** *are there any loaded words or words that unfairly describe or characterize a person or event?*

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| **Example of bias (words, sources, etc)** | **Explanation (in one sentence)** |
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**The Power of Words: A semantic stylebook**

***Directions*:** For each pair of words, circle the term you think is most neutral, or least biased. Then, explain why you believe that term is most appropriate to use in a publication.

**1. Black/African American**

**2. Illegal alien/Undocumented immigrant**

**3. Gay marriage/Same-sex marriage**

**4. Homeless/Transient**

**5. Censorship/Prior review**