

BIAS

Teacher Tips and Extension Activities

Use these tips and extensions to expand on the primary source mini-lesson. Keep in mind that the mini-lessons are designed to engage all learners, so that they feel confident and see the purpose of analyzing primary sources.

Tip 1: Help students understand that there were (and still are) different perspectives on historical individuals and events.

Tip 2: Encourage students to examine language and look up the definitions of words to determine a source's bias.

Tip 3: Ask students to consider what facts are included and left out of historical accounts.

Tip 4: Remind students that they should examine their own work for evidence of bias. After all, we all have biases!

Source check activity: Journalistic standards (rules) dictate that a journalist must attribute or include their sources of information. Sometimes information comes in the form of a caption below an image or a list of references at the end of the piece.

- **Ask students:** What piece of information is the most important to know and why? Title, author, publisher, place of publication, or year of publication?
More challenging: What kinds of judgments can you make about a source if you know the elements of attribution?

More Practice: Go to bit.ly/jia-nome to read an article from The Nome Nugget which details Therese Bonney's experiences covering World War II and answer the questions below.

1. What words and images does the author use to describe the subject?
2. Based on the language, images, and facts included in the source, what is the author's bias, or perspective, toward the subject?

Extension activities:

1. Go to bit.ly/jia-bonney to complete the full activity on Therese Bonney with the Annotator tool on the Journalism in Action website!
2. More Practice: Go to the Introduction page of Journalism in Action's World War II case study at bit.ly/jia-wwii. Choose one of the primary sources and complete the See, Think, Wonder questions.
3. Who else would you want to hear from to learn more about Therese Bonney and her work? How would you find more sources?