



How to Spot the Slant

You can find slants in magazines, on TV, and online.

A **slant** is when a story is written to favor a certain group or opinion.

As you look, you might find:

Misinformation. This is when inaccurate information is shared, like gossip, a fake news story, or a wild headline, to intentionally mislead you.

Bias. This is a belief or opinion that interferes with someone being fair. Think of being right- or left-handed: most scissors and desks are made for right-handed people, making it more difficult for left-handed people—that's not fair. Online, biased information promotes one perspective, opinion, or group of people over others.

Stereotypes. These are general ideas about a group that are often inaccurate or exaggerated, like "all Girl Scouts do is sell cookies." Stereotypes are often influenced by bias, and perpetuating stereotypes can be harmful.

To spot the slant, ask yourself:

What are you looking at? A news story? An ad? A video? A sponsored post?

Who created it? Who is the author or creator? What's the source?

How is it tagged? Is it an ad with words like "Sale," "Ad," or "Sponsored"? Is it a story tagged with words like "Editorial" or "Opinion"?

How does it make you feel? Do you feel more informed? Do you feel worried or upset? Does it seem helpful or unkind?

What's the message? What is the story saying or asking you to do? What language is used to share the facts? Can you find any bias or stereotyping? Is there a wild headline or any misinformation?

What do you do now? If you've decided that something isn't real or factual, what will you do? For example, you could point out what's not true or tell others not to consume or share misinformation.