



Exploring the Information Landscape: Becoming an Information World Traveler

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Link to slides: <https://is.gd/SlidesBIWT>



What we're covering today

- Identifying our own ideological worldviews
- Discussing what can happen when we live in our own worldview bubbles
- Seeking out perspectives and worldviews that are different than our own
- Identifying strategies for avoiding snap judgements and chaos climbers



Ideological worldviews

- What are they?
 - “An **ideology** is what is believed to be right.”
 - “A **worldview** is what is believed to be true.”

Combined, these are “a lens through which self and reality are interpreted, including beliefs about what can be known and done” (Brown, 2019, p. 33)



What's your ideological worldview? (1)

- Three options to discover your ideological worldview:
 - NYTimes: <https://is.gd/SixPartyQuiz>
 - AllSides: <https://is.gd/RateYourBias>
 - Pew Research Center: <https://is.gd/PewTypology>



Living in our own worldview bubbles (1)

- Our ideological worldviews guide our media and information selections through...
- **Selective exposure:**
 - “[T]he phenomenon whereby people choose to focus on information in their environment that is congruent with and confirms their current attitudes in order to avoid or reduce cognitive dissonance (Festinger, 1962)” ([Williams et al., 2016, pp. 2-3](#)).



Living in our own worldview bubbles (2)

- Which aspects of your **ideological worldview** guide your media and information selection **more than others**?
- Take 2 minutes and write down your ideas!



Living in our own worldview bubbles (3)

- What are the **positives** of only consuming information from our own worldview bubbles?
- What are the **negatives** of only consuming information from our own worldview bubbles?



Living in our own worldview bubbles (4)

- **Selective exposure** can lead to:
 - **Confirmation bias:**
 - “In addition to filtering the information that is attended to, individuals may also actively seek out and assign more weight or validity to information that supports their current attitude” ([Williams et al., 2016, p. 3](#)).



Living in our own worldview bubbles (5)

- Can you think of a time when you've engaged in **confirmation bias**?
- Take 2 minutes and write down your ideas!



Seeking out different worldviews (1)

- A first step is to consider:
 - Whose perspectives do we tend to **seek out, listen to, and trust**
 - Whose perspectives do we tend to **avoid, ignore, and distrust**
- Take 2 minutes and write down your ideas!



Seeking out different worldviews (2)

- Options include:
 - [AllSides Media Bias Ratings](#)
 - How AllSides Rates Media Bias:
<https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-rating-methods>
 - YouTube Video: [How AllSides Rates Media Bias](#)



Seeking out different worldviews (3)

- Options include:
 - Lateral reading and tracking down cited sources



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (1)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Be aware of our own ideological worldview and biases
 - Are we showing “intellectual humility”? ([Leary et al., 2017](#); [Zmigrod et al., 2019](#))



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (2)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Be aware of our own ideological worldview and biases
 - **Six thought experiments** (Galef, 2021)
 - Double standard test
 - Selective skeptic test
 - Outsider test
 - Conformity test
 - Status quo bias test
 - Ideological *Turing* test



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (3)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Be aware of our own ideological worldview and biases
 - **Six thought experiments** (Galef, 2021)
 - Double standard test
 - “Am I judging other people’s behavior by a standard I wouldn’t apply to myself” or to those whose perspectives I agree with?
([Hersey, 2022](#))



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (4)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Be aware of our own ideological worldview and biases
 - **Six thought experiments** (Galef, 2021)
 - Conformity test: “Would our opinion be the same if others around us didn’t share it? Or if someone we admire didn’t hold it?” ([Smith, 2021](#))
 - “Would I feel comfortable defending it to them?” ([Hersey, 2022](#))



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (5)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Be aware of our own ideological worldview and biases
 - **Six thought experiments** (Galef, 2021)
 - Ideological Turing test:
 - “Can you explain it *as a believer would*, convincingly enough that other people couldn’t tell the difference between you and a genuine believer?” ([Hersey, 2022](#))



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (6)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Recognize situations when we might feel compelled to “be right” ([Psychology Today, n.d.](#))
 - Try not to jump to conclusions ([Psychology Today, n.d.](#))



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (7)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Consider the author's goal or aim
 - Does the author show "intellectual humility"? ([Leary et al., 2017](#); [Zmigrod et al., 2019](#))
 - Does the author employ/engage in any fallacies? ([University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: The Writing Center, n.d.](#))



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (8)

- Pursue **open-mindedness**
 - Consider our mood at that moment
 - Research has shown that when we're in a **negative mood**, we have a particularly difficult time critically examining information that challenges our beliefs – because that information is more **annoying** than the information we already agree with ([Jonas et al., 2006, p. 13](#)).



Strategies for avoiding snap judgements (9)

- Pursue **open-mindedness...**
 - but recognize if the author is a **"chaos climber"**
 - Someone who seeks to "[disrupt] the stability...to create space to move up in the world" ([Smith, 2022](#)).

"Chaos isn't a pit. Chaos is a ladder."
([Game of Thrones, Littlefinger to Varys, S3E6 "The Climb"](#))



What's your ideological worldview? (2)

- AllSides – Rate your Bias: <https://is.gd/RateYourBias> or <https://www.allsides.com/rate-your-bias>
- Pew Research Center's Political Typology Quiz: <https://is.gd/PewTypology> or <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-typology/>
- New York Times Six Party Quiz: <https://is.gd/SixPartyQuiz> or <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/09/08/opinion/republicans-democrats-parties.html>
- 8 Values Political Quiz: <https://8values.github.io/>
- Political Compass Test: <https://www.politicalcompass.org/test>

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Thank you!

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