



How to Rate Comparison

Comparison is the final factor we rate. It is pretty straightforward, but as you can gather from the name, it requires that you are not only familiar with this article, but also with other articles about this topic. Here's how you should go about rating this factor.

1. If this is the first article you are rating in this set, you obviously will not have any similar articles to compare this one to on this particular topic. Go ahead and make your initial rating based on how biased this article seems in relation to all news articles you have read in the past few months, on any topic.
2. Then, go read the other articles in the set on this topic.

Bias by Omission

As you read each of the other articles, you will build up knowledge about the universe of reportable facts, analysis, and opinion on this topic. This knowledge will allow you to pick up on a particular kind of bias, which is *bias by omission*.

The more knowledge you have about a topic, the more you will be able to identify when something is not included in an article, the presence of which would have made the article fairer and less biased. As you get more experienced at rating articles, your ability to identify this bias by omission will increase.

Judging “Most Extreme” and “Neutral/Balanced”

You will usually be considering only six articles about a particular topic, so it is not likely that you will encounter the most extreme possible article that exists in each set (because there is usually always something more extreme out there!). To determine where exactly you should place an extreme article along the left-right spectrum, consider not only the bias of the article in relation to the other articles in the set, but also the level of bias of this article compared to all other articles you have read. If an article strikes you, in your experience, as being one of the most extreme you have ever read, you should rate it in the “most extreme” column.

When considering the articles that you view as the most neutral or balanced of the set, imagine what a perfectly neutral or balanced article on the topic would look like, and place the actual articles in relation to that.

3. After reading each of the articles in the set, go back and review your comparison ratings for each of the articles and adjust if necessary.