

A Global Perspective



Issues can become **confused** very easily through several different factors.

Paradigm

- A framework, or overall worldview, on which knowledge claims are made.
- Paradigms are the rules and conditions we use to understand those things we perceive.
- If the paradigm changes it is called a paradigm shift (ie a geocentric view of the universe shifted to a heliocentric view of the universe)

Facts

- Unbiased information about reality
- Are **OBJECTIVE** and unarguable

Opinions

- Are judgments and views about reality
- Are **SUBJECTIVE** and arguable

Bias

- Is the presentation of an issue from a single point of view
- Biased words have great power to persuade the unwary towards opinions they might not otherwise hold

Ethnocentricity

- Whenever the behaviour of another society or ethnic group is judged by the standards of one's own society or group
- The risk faced by those who hold an ethnocentric point of view is that they may consider any other way of life but their own to be somewhat abnormal
- These people believe their culture to be superior

Propaganda

- Systematic efforts to spread opinions and beliefs, especially by distortion and deception
- Ideas, facts or allegations spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause

Doublespeak

- A language clouding our understanding of public issues to protect the people.
- Restricts personal thoughts and lets words become the spoken truths
- "Doublespeak smuggles uncomfortable thoughts into comfortable minds"

Perspective

- To become aware of something or an understanding through ones own senses

When examining a source of information, ask yourself the following questions:

- Who wrote the document and why did he or she write it?
- Was the author or organization closely involved in the event? Could that have affected what was written?
- What credentials does the author have to indicate that she or he is a reliable source?
- What organization published the document? Does this organization have a particular point of view or agenda that would bias the information?
- Are view laden adjectives used?
- Do the arguments and evidence support only one side of an issue?

What is *your* perspective?

“The real voyage of discovery
lies not in seeking new lands
but in seeing with new eyes”

The Paradigm Pig



