

Recognizing Bias

**Skills for
LIFE**

The ability to recognize bias is an important skill that will help you analyze information presented in the numerous pamphlets, articles, and advertisements that you will come across on almost a daily basis. Sharpen your “bias detector” by completing this exercise.

Is the following fictional news article, which is based on a real ongoing public debate, biased? Read the article and then answer the questions.

American Medical Association Magazine

January Edition

Debate Over the Right to Sue

Hearings continued this month as more doctors and lawyers showed up to testify as to whether or not Congress should limit the right to sue doctors and hospitals.

Over 20 surgeons and other doctors provided strong, compelling testimony in support of congressional action.

“Lawsuits and the threat of lawsuits have already pushed medical costs too high,” claimed Dr. Jane Splint, an orthopedic surgeon. “Many so-called errors are risks that doctors have advised their

patients might be an outcome. When patients don’t like the result, they feel they can sue even if the doctor committed no error.”

Lawyers attempted to rebut Splint and other notable physicians’ testimonies.

“Doctors need to do a better job,” asserted John Tort, an attorney specializing in patient’s rights. “If they don’t—we sue...”

The hearings are expected to come to a close early next month.

1. Where was this article published? What group does this magazine represent?
2. What is the purpose of the article?
3. Do you find any evidence of bias in the article? Identify the evidence or explain why you do not think the article is biased.