**Bias & Privilege**

The creators of texts attempt to impact their audience. Some creators want their audience to believe what they are reading or seeing or hearing, while others want to impact their audience’s emotions. Often, they want the audience to understand their perspective, or bias, and take actions that fit with that perspective. For instance, one author writing about hunting might argue that it is cruel, while another might argue that people need to feed themselves, and it is natural. The first author might want people to be upset about killing animals and to support a ban on hunting, the second might want people to try hunting or vote against banning it.

A picture containing drawing, shirt

Description automatically generatedOften, texts preserve privilege. What this means is that whoever creates the texts is able to convince people that their perspective is the “truth.” Canadian history textbooks in the past were written by white or European people, and therefore didn’t communicate Indigenous history and perspectives. Many Canadians didn’t know about the residential schools because Indigenous people didn’t have the power to control what was written in the textbooks.

*Choose a topic and find two texts that are related to that topic but have different opinions (could be songs, videos, books, newspaper articles, etc.). Why do you think the creators of those texts had the perspectives they did? How might they bias their audience if the audience only received their perspective, and not the other?*