

# A note on bias and accuracy in the classroom...

(Thanks to Neil Postman, *The End of Education*. Vintage Books, 1996.)

During this year, I will be doing a great deal of talking. I will be giving lectures, answering questions, and conducting discussions. Since I am an imperfect scholar and, even more certainly, a fallible human being, I will inevitably be making factual errors, drawing some unjustifiable conclusions, and perhaps passing along my opinions as facts. I should be very unhappy if you were unaware of these mistakes. To minimize that possibility, I am going to make you all honorary members of Accuracy in Academia. Your task is to make sure that none of my errors goes by unnoticed. If you detect bias or inaccuracy in any of my classroom presentations, it is your job to draw my attention to it. You should, of course, say why these are errors, indicate the source of your authority, and, if possible, suggest a truer or more useful or less biased way of formulating what I said. Please try to treat me with the same respect that I will give to you, if and when, you make a mistake. To ensure that you do not fall into the torpor that is so common among students, I will, from time to time, deliberately include some patently untrue statements and some outrageous opinions.

There is no need for you to do this alone. You should consult with your classmates, perhaps even form a study group that can collectively review the things I have said. Please do not hesitate to ask for class time to correct my mistakes and promote impartiality and accuracy in our classroom.

Mr. Taray