

Prejudice in the Press

Part A.

Directions: Read the following newspaper article and answer the questions that follow.

Negro Jailed Here For 'Overlooking' Bus Segregation

A Montgomery Negro woman was arrested by city police last night for ignoring a bus driver who directed her to sit in the rear of the bus.

The woman, Rosa Parks, 634 Cleveland Ave., was later released under \$100 bond.

Bus operator J. F. Blake, 27 N. Lewis St., in notifying police, said a Negro woman sitting in the section reserved for whites refused to move to the Negro section.

When Officers F. B. Day and D. W. Mixon arrived where the bus was halted on Montgomery street, they confirmed the driver's report.

Blake signed the warrant for her arrest under a section of the City Code that gives police powers to bus drivers in the enforcement of segregation aboard buses.¹

1. Does this news story present a balanced report of all sides of the event? Explain.
2. Is the article an example of propaganda? Explain.

Part B.

Directions: Reread the article and complete the following activities.

1. Rewrite the article. Develop information and quotations that will slant the article from the point of view of an African American bus rider sitting near Rosa Parks.
2. Rewrite the article. Develop information and quotations that will make the news story balanced.

¹Montgomery Advertiser, December 2, 1955.

Part C.

Directions: Using all the information you have been studying about propaganda, answer the following questions.

1. Explain how propaganda can influence public opinion.

2. How can propaganda be used as a weapon?

3. How important a factor is propaganda in the development of prejudice?

4. Is the Rosa Parks news article prejudicial? Explain.

5. What can the public do to combat propaganda?

Word Play

Part A.

Directions: Propaganda often utilizes misleading or loaded words. Write down any images that come to mind when you read each of the following words.

1. American
2. addict
3. government
4. hero
5. Negro
6. love
7. home
8. racist
9. Nazi
10. mother

Part B.

Directions: Review your answers to part A. Do you believe any of these words could be used in propaganda? How?