

---

## Avoiding Test Bias: What is Test Bias?

This activity will help you answer the essential question:

**What is Test Bias?**

---

### Activity 1: What is Test Bias?

*You may complete this activity individually or in groups.*

#### Part 1

Consider the following slides on the left from the PowerPoint [Bias and Sensitivity Review](#) and respond to each.

#### What Bias Is...

- Containing information or ideas that are unique to the culture of one group ...
- AND this information or idea is not part of the content standards.

November, 2011

What do you think is the relationship between bias in assessment and content standards? Why is this so important?

#### Biased Items

- Measure membership in a group more than they measure a content objective.
- Cannot be answered by a person who does not possess some certain background knowledge.

November, 2011

What type of background knowledge do you think is important to consider if you want to avoid bias in assessment?

#### What Bias Is NOT...

- Having a boy's name or a girl's name
- Mentioning a part of the state, country, or world
- Mentioning an object or activity that is variably familiar to certain groups (surfboards, buying stocks)
- Having a "boy" activity (sports) or a "girl" activity (cooking)

November, 2011

Why are these bulleted items NOT examples of bias in assessment?

#### Part 2

Write your own definition of assessment bias: