Filter Bubbles & Confirmation Bias

Have you heard of filter bubbles or confirmation bias before? If so, what do you know about them?

Pre-Activity Questions

1. **Music & Learning:** Does listening to music while studying help people learn?
   - Yes
   - Probably
   - I don’t know
   - Probably not
   - No

2. **Phones in Classrooms:** Would banning phones in the classroom help education?
   - Yes
   - Probably
   - I don’t know
   - Probably not
   - No

3. **Immigration in the U.S.:** Do you think immigration is a benefit to the USA?
   - Yes
   - Probably
   - I don’t know
   - Probably not
   - No

4. **Cell phones & health:** Is keeping your cell phone close to your body (ex: in your pocket) harmful to your health?
   - Yes
   - Probably
   - I don’t know
   - Probably not
   - No

5. **Gun control:** Should the U.S. have stricter gun control?
   - Yes
   - Probably
   - I don’t know
   - Probably not
   - No

6. **Police body cameras:** Do you think police should wear body cameras?
   - Yes
   - Probably
   - I don’t know
   - Probably not
   - No

Circle the topics above you feel most strongly about.
**Article Activity** – Important: All articles below come from credible sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Post Headline</th>
<th>How does this information make you feel? Do you want it to be true or false?</th>
<th>Would you share or like this post? Why or why not?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music &amp; Learning</td>
<td><strong>Drowned in Sound: how listening to music hinders learning</strong> <em>(The Guardian)</em></td>
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<td><strong>3 Reasons You Should Try Studying While Listening to Music</strong> <em>(Colorado State University Online)</em></td>
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<td>Phones in Classrooms</td>
<td><strong>Phones in the Classroom Hurt Everyone’s Grades</strong> <em>(Science News for Students)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Banning Smart Phones From Classroom Could Damage Education, Warn Researchers</strong> <em>(The Telegraph)</em></td>
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<td>Immigration in the U.S.</td>
<td><strong>An Aging U.S. is revitalized by Immigrants</strong> <em>(New York Times Opinion Pages)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Unskilled Workers Lose Out to Immigrants</strong> <em>(New York Times Opinion Pages)</em></td>
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<td>Cell phones &amp; health</td>
<td>Cancer Risk From Cellphone Radiation Is Small, Studies Show <em>(New York Times)</em></td>
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<td>Keep cell phones away from your body, warns the California Department of Public Health <em>(BGR)</em></td>
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<td>Gun control</td>
<td>New evidence confirms what gun rights advocates have said for a long time about crime <em>(Washington Post)</em></td>
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<td>Guns have killed more Americans in last 50 years than all US wars put together <em>(The Independent)</em></td>
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<td>Police body cameras</td>
<td>Police officers with body worn cameras are more likely to be assaulted <em>(The Telegraph)</em></td>
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<td>Research Shows Police Body-Worn Cameras Reduce Misconduct and Cost for Las Vegas <em>(Government Technology)</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

One headline I immediately accepted or believed was ________________________________________________________________

One headline I immediately rejected or dismissed was ________________________________________________________________
Watch **Confirmation Bias: Why do our brains love fake news?** (5:20) from KQED and respond to the following questions.

The part of this video that most surprised me was ____________________________________________

________________________________________

Confirmation bias causes us to ____________________________________________________________

________________________________________

This matters because ________________________________________________________________

________________________________________

During the article activity, I feel I did / did not [circle one] experience confirmation bias because ________________________________________________________________

________________________________________

Watch **Soldier v. Scout Mentality** (11:45) from a TEDx talk by Julia Galef, co-founder of the Center for Applied Rationality, and respond to the following questions.

The part of this video that most interested me was ____________________________________________

________________________________________

- If you have a **soldier mindset**, you care more about the ideas you agree with **winning**. If you encounter facts that suggest you’re wrong, you **attack** or **ignore** them – and can end up believing and spreading misinformation.

- If you have a **scout mindset**, you care more about finding out the **truth**, whether it matches what you think or not. If you encounter facts that suggest you’re wrong, you get **curious** and **open your mind** to the possibility that your ideas need to **change**.

Because of confirmation bias, your brain usually wants to be in the soldier mindset. It doesn’t like new ideas contradicting what it already believes. What are some things you can do to practice a scout mindset?

________________________________________

________________________________________

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