

AVOIDING BIAS IN OUR PLEADINGS AND IN COURT

STAY AWAY FROM GENERALIZATION

Don't use words like "all" or "always" or "never" or language that indicates a generalization:

Biased: "Educators do not consider each child's particular learning style"

Unbiased: Some educators...

Submitting evidence:

When introducing facts, make sure that there are no general assumptions in your presentation and be specific.

Biased: Third grade boys are chronically disruptive while girls are always easier to please.

Unbiased: In the Clooney Study in 2008, there was a finding that 35% of boys and 68% of girls were able to complete instructions for an assignment without disruption.

Avoid broad assumptions about professions:

Biased: The teacher should use technology when she is teaching class. (Assumes the teacher is female)

Unbiased: Teachers should use technology when they are teaching class.

Addressing certain ethnic populations:

Biased: Family is very important to Hispanics.

Unbiased: "According to the Watson Study of (2011), family is important to 47% of the Hispanic population.

Avoid statements based on personal experience

Biased: My daughter texts all day long which goes to show that teenagers use cell phone more than they did in the past.

Unbiased: Teenagers use of cell phones, specifically for texting has increased 33% in the last two years. (Study completed by McDonald).