



**WHOSE STORY DO
WE HEAR AND
WHOSE DO WE
LISTEN TO?**

THE DANGERS OF A FALSE NARRATIVE

A FALSE NARRATIVE IS WHEN SOMEBODY SPEAKS FROM A POINT OF VIEW OTHER THAN THEIR OWN. THIS CAN MISREPRESENT INFORMATION AND MISLEAD AN AUDIENCE DUE TO A SPEAKER'S LACK OF CONTEXT AND EXPERIENCE. THERE IS ALSO A DANGER OF CHANGING OR MISREPRESENTING INFORMATION OR EVENTS AS SPEAKERS OFTEN PAINT THEMSELVES IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, EVEN IF IT IS UNINTENTIONAL.

AN AUTHOR'S AUTHENTIC VOICE

ONE ASPECT TO LOOK FOR WHEN LEARNING ABOUT A PERSON'S CULTURE OR EXPERIENCE IS THE AUTHOR'S VOICE. AN AUTHOR'S PERSONAL EXPERIENCE GREATLY INFLUENCES HOW RELIABLE THEY ARE. AN AUTHOR WHO HAS EXPERIENCE RELATED TO WHAT THEY ARE SPEAKING ABOUT IS MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE THAN SOMEONE TRYING TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER'S EXPERIENCE. THIS CAN ALSO INFLUENCE THE CONTEXT SURROUNDING THE CHARACTERS OR EVENTS IN A STORY.

VALUE OVER VOLUME

THE LOUDEST VOICES ARE NOT ALWAYS THE ONES THAT WE SHOULD LISTEN TO. JUST BECAUSE AN AUTHOR IS WELL KNOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, DOES NOT MEAN THEY ARE THE MOST RELIABLE SOURCE ON THE SUBJECT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO EVALUATE IF THE VOICE WE ARE TRUSTING IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OR JUST POPULAR AMONG AUDIENCES. THE VOICE OF A PERSON WITH EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE VALUED OVER THAT OF SOMEONE WHO LACKS EXPERIENCE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POPULARITY OR PRIVILEGE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT POPULAR, LOUDER VOICES SHOULD NOT BE USED TO BRING ATTENTION TO OTHER'S, BUT IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN EVALUATING A SOURCE.

APPLICATION TO CURRENT EVENTS

THESE CONCEPTS CAN BE EXEMPLIFIED BY WHITE PEOPLE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF BLACK LIVES MATTER VALUES. WHILE WHITE PEOPLE CAN CARE ABOUT AND SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO BLACK PEOPLE AND THEIR STORIES AS THEY ARE ABLE TO SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE. THIS IS SIMILAR TO ANY CULTURAL OR RACIAL ISSUE. LEARNING ABOUT A TOPIC FROM PEOPLE WITH FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE CAN HELP BUILD A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR POINT OF VIEW AND VALUES.