



SELF ADVOCACY

MY BIAS

"Myside bias" is the tendency to evaluate evidence in favor of one's own point of view. Studies indicate that most people -- regardless of IQ -- fall prey tomyside bias (Stanovich et al 2013). But that doesn't mean we're doomed to make an unlimited array of prejudiced, irrational decisions. People become less prone tomyside bias as a function of the years they spend in higher education, even after considering for age and cognitive ability (Toplak and Stanovich 2003).

So it seems likely that aspects of the traditional curriculum -- like exposure to diverse viewpoints, debate, and the tools of critical thinking -- are beneficial. And kids shouldn't have to wait until college to become conscious of biases. One classic educational approach is to assign students to take turns advocating both sides of a given debate. Try using stories from the news. Not only will kids practice perspective-taking, they are likely to hone [critical thinking skills](#) as well. For more information, see my article about teaching debate skills to kids.

Here are some additional resources:

<http://www.parentingscience.com/social-skills-activities.html>

http://www.jubed.com/youth_ministry/view/Would-you-rather/