



The Language of Deception

Student Handout: **Examples of Emotive Language**

1. “Most Canadian physicians who are themselves in need of surgery, for example, scurry across the border to get it done right: the American way. They have found, through experience, that state medical care is too expensive, too slow and inefficient, and, most important, it doesn’t provide adequate care for most people.” (Rush Limbaugh, “See, I Told You So,” p. 153)
2. “Leave it to the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to try and spoil the party for all of us fishing families. The animal rights group traipsed across the country last week in an attempt to disrupt National Fishing Week activities and indoctrinate school children. Circumventing parents and teachers, PETA members stood outside schoolyards and distributed ‘Look, Don’t Hook’ toy binoculars to kids. A 6-foot-tall, antifishing mascot, ‘Gill the Fish,’ hovered nearby while activists spread the animal rights’ [sic] gospel.... Kids, take note: This kind of self-indulgent terrorism by animal rights activists is truly ‘cruel – not cool.’ “ (Michelle Malkin, “PETA, Go Jump in the Lake,” *Philadelphia Daily News*, June 19, 2000)
3. “Many of the problems of our schools derive from the kind of people who are teaching in them. Throughout the 20th century, there has been a tug of war between the public, who want their children taught intellectual skills, and ‘educators’ who want to do fun things, manipulate children’s emotions, indoctrinate them with political correctness, or do other things that make the teachers’ jobs easier and make them feel important in saving the world or shaping society.” (Thomas Sowell, “Why Most Teachers Are Failures at Their Job,” *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*, June 18, 2000)
4. “But now [*Psychology Today* is] running an article using the phrase ‘politically incorrect’, [sic] which is, Bill Maher aside, still a battle cry for self-satisfied right wingers [sic]. It’s [the content of the *Psychology Today* article] supposedly 10 truths about human nature that squishy liberals don’t want to hear.... Most of the article deals with reinforcing rather low opinions on men and women, plus pushing the idea that men are capricious horndogs and women seem to have no libido to speak of. The authors are very invested in ‘proving’ that men are physically incapable of lusting after a woman over 22, or a woman with dark hair, or a woman without giant breasts, etc., and that divorces are caused by women having the nerve to age.... The real kicker for me was not the same tired excuses for male misbehavior or the same assumptions that women don’t have human-like motivations, but this half-baked rash of stereotypes about suicide bombers.” (Amanda Marcotte, “Davy Crockett and the Suicide Bombers,” *Pandagon.net*, July 10, 2007)