Just What I Wanted to Hear?



Key term

Confirmation bias: the tendency to look for, notice, and remember evidence that supports what we already believe, or want to believe, while overlooking evidence that does not.

Two people are talking about whether God exists. Person A believes in God, and Person B does not. Your task is not to decide who is right, but to look for confirmation bias on both sides.

1. **A:** When I look at how ordered and beautiful the universe is, it seems to me that someone must be behind it.
2. **B:** I can see why you'd think that, but scientists can explain a lot about how the universe works without needing God.
3. **A:** When I prayed before the history test, I felt a real sense of peace.
4. **B:** But what about all the times people pray and nothing happens?
5. **A:** What about all the archaeological discoveries that match places and people in the Bible?
6. **B:** What about all the suffering in the world? Why would God allow that?
7. **A:** I mostly talk about it with people from my church, including scientists, and they all agree with me.
8. **B:** And I follow lots of people online, including scientists, who agree with me.

1. Which lines show confirmation bias? For each one you find, write the line number, and explain how it shows confirmation bias.

Line	How it shows confirmation bias

2. Choose either Person A or Person B. Write them a short message, advising them how they could avoid confirmation bias.