

Name _____



Words With Weight

Directions: Read the short passage below carefully. Highlight or underline any **emotionally charged, persuasive, or biased** words and phrases, or words meant to sway the reader's feelings or opinions. Then, answer the short-response questions that follow to analyze how language shapes perspective and bias.

The Rise of Electric Scooters

Electric scooters are cluttering sidewalks in cities everywhere. Some residents call them a menace, claiming they are recklessly left in the middle of walkways and create dangerous situations for pedestrians. Yet supporters argue that scooters are an innovative and eco-friendly solution to traffic and pollution. As cities struggle to adapt, the debate over these trendy gadgets shows no sign of slowing down.

1. Which **three words or phrases** show the writer's negative bias toward electric scooters?

2. Which **two words or phrases** show a more positive or supportive bias?

3. Why might an author choose to use emotionally loaded words instead of neutral ones?

4. Rewrite one sentence from the passage to make it **more neutral and objective**. (Example: Replace "recklessly left" with "sometimes left.")

5. What does this passage show about how **word choice** influences the reader's perception of an issue?
