

Name _____

Words With Weight Answer Key

Question	Sample Response
1. Negative bias words/phrases	"cluttering," "menace," "recklessly," "dangerous"
2. Positive bias words/phrases	"innovative," "eco-friendly," "trendy gadgets"
3. Purpose of loaded words	Authors use emotionally charged words to influence readers' feelings, create urgency, or push them toward a specific viewpoint.
4. Neutral rewrite (sample)	"Some residents say scooters are sometimes left in walkways and may cause safety concerns."
5. Word choice effect	The author's word choice can make readers see scooters as helpful or harmful. Loaded words shape emotion and reveal the author's bias, even in short texts.

Teacher Notes / Guide

Objective: Students will learn to identify and interpret **loaded or emotionally charged language** that reveals bias in informational or persuasive writing.

Teaching Tips:

- Begin with a brief mini-lesson defining **loaded language** and **connotation vs. denotation** (e.g., "slim" vs. "skinny").
- Encourage students to **read aloud** and listen for tone shifts caused by word choice.
- Discuss how **synonyms** can carry very different emotional weights depending on context.
- Use color coding: *red* for negative bias words, *green* for positive ones, and *blue* for neutral replacements.

Extension Activity: Have students rewrite the entire paragraph from either a **pro-scooter** or **anti-scooter** perspective using their own loaded words.