

Neutral Newsroom Answer Key

1. City Council Proposes Changes to Downtown Parking Availability.
2. Local Student Presents School Project on Climate Solutions.
3. Developers Purchase Multiple Green Space Properties in Town.
4. Dog Helps Family Escape Dangerous Situation.
5. Student Performance Linked to Recent Decline in Test Scores.

Reflection Sample Answers

1. Emotional or judgmental words make readers form opinions before reading the facts, often causing anger, excitement, or sympathy instead of objectivity.
2. It's important to recognize bias so readers can separate facts from opinions and avoid being misled by exaggerated or one-sided reporting.
3. For example, I removed words like "outrageous" and "destroy" to make the headline about the actual event rather than an emotional reaction.

Teacher Notes / Guide

Objective: Students will learn to recognize **bias, exaggeration, and emotional manipulation** in headlines, then practice rewriting them to reflect **objective, balanced reporting**.

Teaching Tips:

- Start with a short discussion: "What makes you click on a headline?" to highlight emotional triggers.
- Review **key bias cues**: adjectives (e.g., *lazy, heroic, greedy*), absolutes (*always, never*), and judgmental phrasing (*to blame, destroys*).
- Encourage students to think like journalists: what is **factually verifiable** versus **emotionally suggestive**?
- Allow students to work in pairs to compare rewrites and debate which are most neutral.

Extension Activities:

- Bring in real headlines from current news sources (print or online) and have students **rate them on a "bias scale."**
- Challenge students to **create two headlines** for the same event: one biased and one neutral to show how phrasing changes perception.