Name _____

Opinion Uncovered

Directions: Read the passage carefully. **Highlight or underline** words and phrases that show the author's **bias, judgment, or opinion** (not neutral facts). After marking the text, answer the questions to explain why these words suggest bias. Use complete sentences when responding.

The city's new public park is an absolute triumph of planning and beauty. Unlike the dreary, crumbling playgrounds that used to litter the neighborhood, this park offers families a safe and refreshing escape. The visionary leaders who pushed this project forward clearly care about the community, unlike the critics who constantly complain without offering real solutions. The new walking trails wind gracefully through the grounds, offering a perfect place for relaxation and inspiration. Parents say the park is already the crown jewel of the entire city, a shining example of what happens when people in power actually listen. Even the playground equipment is described as state-of-the-art and dazzling, making older parks in nearby towns look embarrassingly outdated. Anyone who visits the park will surely agree that it is a brilliant success and a gift to all residents.

1. For each word or phrase you marked, explain **why it reveals bias** instead of presenting neutral information.

2. Write one sentence rewriting a biased part of the passage into a **neutral version**. (Example starter: *Instead of saying "absolute triumph," the author could say "newly completed."*)

3. What effect does the author's use of strongly positive words have on how the reader views the park?

4. Why might it be important for a reader to recognize when an author's opinions are influencing the description of a place or event?