

Language Under the Lens Answer Key

Sample Responses

1.

- Excerpt 1 - "Peacekeeping mission" = war or military invasion.
- Excerpt 2 - "Targeted tax adjustment" = tax increase.
- Excerpt 3 - "Staff realignment" = layoffs.
- Excerpt 4 - "Temporarily relocated" = detained or displaced.
- Excerpt 5 - "Collateral damage" = civilian deaths or destruction.

2. Direct rewrites will vary (e.g., "Our nation is currently fighting a war to control the region").

3. Euphemisms make policies sound positive, professional, or less alarming. They persuade by softening negative realities.

4. Answers will vary; strong answers explain tone and strategy (e.g., "Peacekeeping mission" makes war sound noble).

5. Answers will vary but should reflect understanding that euphemisms can both help communication and distort truth.

• Teaching Tips:

- Begin by asking students where they've heard political euphemisms (e.g., "enhanced interrogation," "collateral damage," "revenue enhancement").
- Read each excerpt aloud, pausing to ask: *What is the speaker avoiding saying directly?*
- Discuss how tone and word choice influence emotional response and perception of truth.

• Differentiation Strategies:

- For **Grades 10-11**: guide students with a list of common political euphemisms and meanings.
- For **Grade 12 or advanced learners**: assign additional research on real political speeches and identify euphemistic patterns.