

Name _____

The Park Project Controversy

Role: Media Detective – Your task is to investigate two articles reporting on the *same event*. One is written as a **factual news report**, and the other as an **opinion column**.

BACKGROUND BRIEF: The city recently approved a plan to build a large skate park in Riverside Park. The project has stirred up mixed reactions among residents.

ARTICLE A: City Council Approves New Skate Park

Published in: Metro News (Local Daily Paper)

On Tuesday evening, the city council voted 5–2 in favor of building a new skate park in Riverside Park. The \$450,000 project is expected to begin construction in September and finish by early spring. The council stated the goal is to provide more recreational spaces for teens. The project will be funded by the Parks and Recreation Department's development budget. A community meeting is scheduled next month to discuss design features.

ARTICLE B: A Skate Park? That's the Best Use of Tax Dollars?

Published in: The Daily Echo (Opinion Section)

Honestly, it's baffling that the city council thinks a skate park is what Riverside Park really needs. With crumbling sidewalks, limited public restrooms, and aging playground equipment, it feels like a slap in the face to long-time residents. Sure, teens need outlets—but does it have to cost nearly half a million dollars? Our city leaders seem out of touch, throwing money at a niche project while more urgent needs go ignored.

Questions

1. Which article is more factual in tone?

How can you tell?

2. Which article includes more opinions or emotional language?

List 2 examples of opinion-based or emotionally charged language from that article:

3. Identify 2 facts that appear in both articles:

4. What is the main goal of each article?

Article A's goal:

Article B's goal: