

Boost Free Lessons - Year 8 English

Lesson 11: Objectivity and Bias

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Identify the bias in the sentence below.

A handful of protesters caused chaos outside the meeting, while sensible residents stayed home.

1. **Objective** writing reports facts without revealing the writer's judgement.
2. **Bias** shows through word choice, selection of detail, and what is left out.
3. *A handful* minimises the protesters, while *chaos* exaggerates their effect.
4. Calling the others *sensible* praises one side and, by implication, criticises the other.

The writer is biased against the protesters, shown by *a handful*, *chaos* and calling the opposing group *sensible*.

Worked Example 2

Rewrite the sentence above objectively.

1. Remove every word that carries a judgement rather than a fact.
2. Replace vague quantities with figures if they are known, or neutral wording if not.
3. Do not describe either group in terms that praise or criticise them.
4. The reader should be able to form their own view from what remains.

Model: Around thirty people protested outside the meeting. Other residents did not attend.

Remember: **Objective** writing reports checkable facts without judgement. **Bias** shows in word choice, in which facts are selected, and in whose viewpoint is **missing**. Ask what has been left out.



Question 1: Write whether each sentence is **biased** or **objective**.

1. The council wasted \$2 million on a pointless footbridge.

2. The council spent \$2 million on a footbridge.

3. Attendance fell by twelve per cent.

4. Attendance collapsed by a shocking twelve per cent.

5. Critics claim the policy has failed.

6. The policy has been criticised by two of the six council members.

7. Everyone agrees the changes were needed.

8. A survey of 400 residents found 62 per cent supported the changes.



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

The council rammed through its so-called parking reform on Tuesday. Fourteen submissions were received. Desperate shop owners, whose concerns were ignored, now face a summer without customers.

1. Find two words in the passage that reveal bias.

2. Whose viewpoint is missing from the passage?

3. Which sentence is closest to objective? Explain.

4. How does the writer use statistics selectively?

5. Rewrite the opening sentence objectively.



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Write a biased sentence about a school rule.

2. Rewrite it objectively.

3. Explain how leaving information out can create bias.

4. Why is it impossible for any text to be completely objective?





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Answers and Model Responses: Objectivity and Bias**Question 1**

1. Biased
2. Objective
3. Objective
4. Biased
5. Biased
6. Objective
7. Biased
8. Objective

Question 2

1. Any two of: **rammed through, so-called, ignored, desperate.**
2. The council's, and anyone who supports the parking changes.
3. Model: *Fourteen submissions were received.* It reports a checkable figure without judgement.
4. It gives the number of submissions received but not how many supported the plan, which invites the reader to assume they were all opposed.
5. Model: The council approved the parking changes at its meeting on Tuesday.

Question 3

1. Model response: The absurd new bag rule punishes students for something nobody has ever complained about.
2. Model response: A new rule requires bags to be left outside classrooms. It was introduced this term.
3. A writer can report only the facts that support one view. Every statement can be true while the overall impression is still misleading.
4. Every text involves choices about what to include, what to leave out and which words to use, and each choice carries some judgement.

