



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

1.21 Recognizing Slanted Words

Objectives

Create an awareness of how the slanting of verbs and nouns can be used to depict people favorably or unfavorably.

Practice casting negatively slanted words into favorable terms.

Materials needed

Copies of the handout

Time needed

Ten to twenty minutes

Instructor directions

Ask your students to imagine they are observers preparing to report on a hypothetical political, military, religious, or social activist organization or incident.

Discuss how the reporter's perspective influences how an audience perceives the organization or incident.

Have them cast sentences from positive (approving) and negative (disapproving) points of view. Compare the results and discuss.



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Directions

Imagine you are an observer, preparing to write a report describing an incident you witnessed or an organization you saw operating.

Choose two or three of the paired phrases below. Cast two sentences for each pair of phrases, the first from the perspective of someone who disapproves or is not in favor of the activity, the second from the perspective of someone who approves or is in favor of the activity.

cult vs. denomination

demonstrate vs. riot

throwing a tantrum vs. objecting to management's decision

stalked out vs. left abruptly

hysterical vs. adamant

halted vs. paralyzed

preaches vs. advocates

muzzled vs. suppressed

rampaged vs. marched

enthusiast vs. fanatic

assertive vs. abrasive

threaten vs. warn

made a scene vs. stood their ground

zealot vs. patriot

Answer the following questions:

How can verbs, as well as nouns, be used to convey an attitude, bias, or agenda?

How can the use of slanted words influence how a person, organization, or incident is perceived?