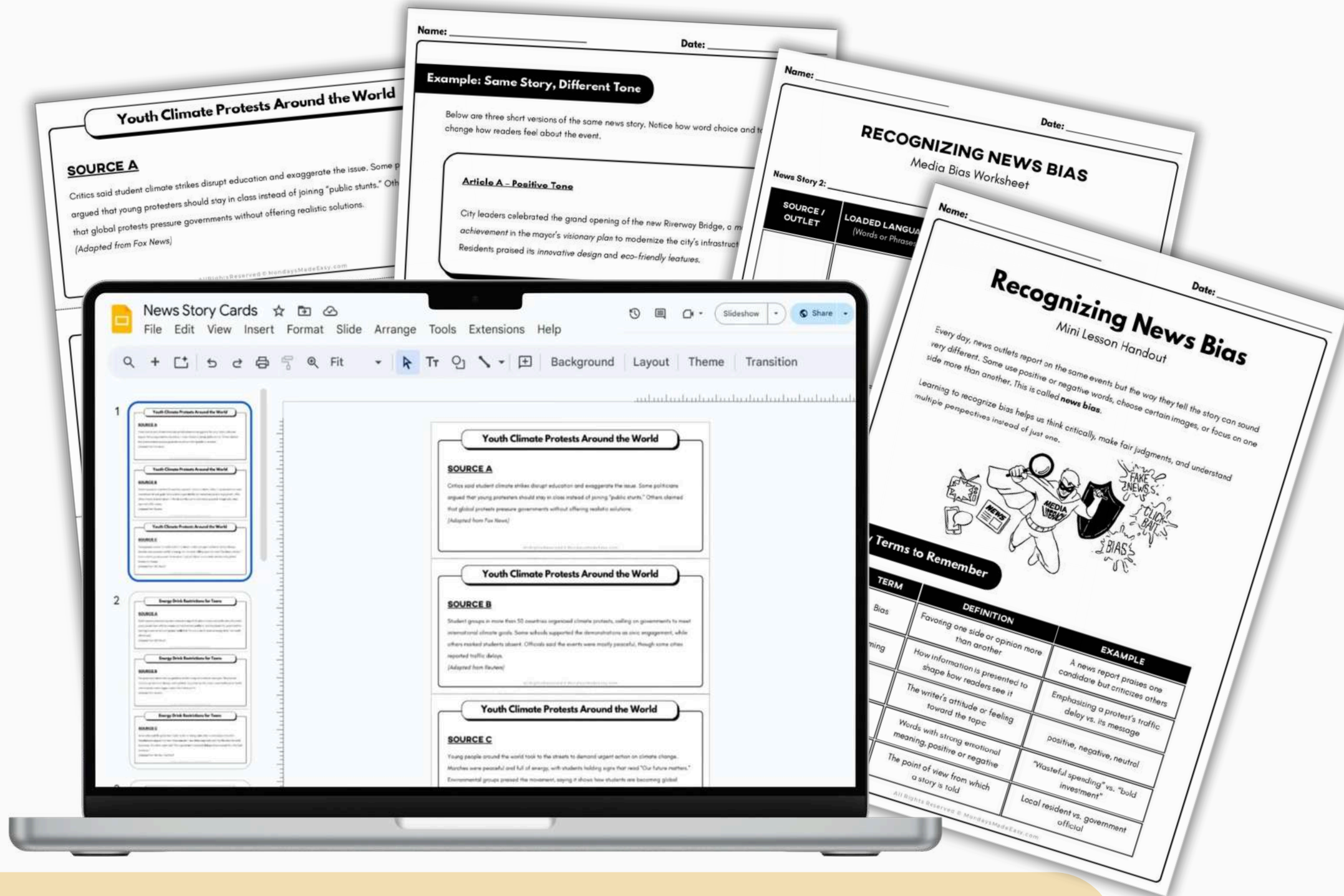


# Media Bias Mini-Lesson: Analyzing News Sources

Through article comparisons, students will evaluate tone, word choice, and framing across news outlets to build digital citizenship skills and identify misinformation



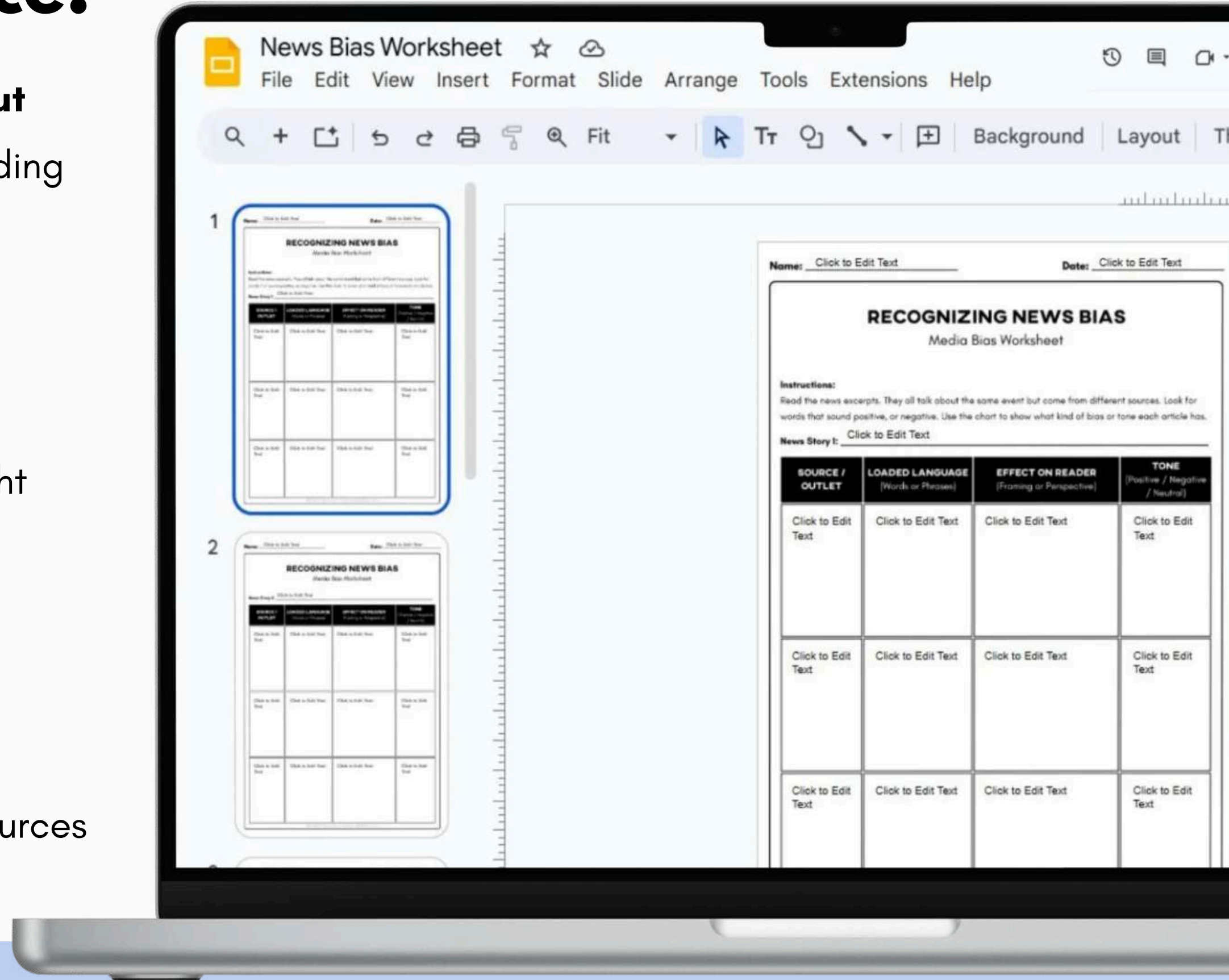
- **Introduce clear definitions and examples of media bias** to equip students with vocabulary to analyze tone and framing.
- **Engage students in side-by-side article comparisons** that reveal how word choice shapes audience perception and interpretation.
- **Support rigorous analysis** with a graphic organizer and model responses that strengthen evidence-based reasoning.

Help students critically evaluate media sources

**PURCHASE HERE**

# Included with this resource:

- ✓ **Recognizing News Bias Informational Handout**
  - Introduces the concept of media bias, providing definitions and examples of tone, loaded language, and framing
- ✓ **18 News Story Cards**
  - Includes multiple news sources per topic
  - Compare conflicting perspectives to highlight bias in the media
- ✓ News Bias Analysis **Graphic Organizer**
- ✓ Student **Sample Answers** to Model Responses
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use these resources



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

# Recognizing News Bias Mini-Lesson Informational Handout

Introduce the concept of media bias and provide definitions and examples of tone, loaded language, and framing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Example: Same Story, Different Tone**

Below are three short versions of the same news story. Notice how word choice and tone change how readers feel about the event.

**Article A - Positive Tone**

City leaders celebrated the grand opening of the new Riverway Bridge, a *major achievement* in the mayor's *visionary plan* to modernize the city's infrastructure. Residents praised its *innovative design* and *eco-friendly features*.

**Article B - Negative Tone**

After years of *cost overruns* and *political mismanagement*, the Riverway Bridge finally opened this week. Critics call it a *costly symbol* of government waste that *burdened taxpayers* for years.

**Article C - Neutral Tone**

The Riverway Bridge opened to the public on Monday. The project took five years and cost \$120 million. City officials and residents shared mixed reactions during the ceremony.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recognizing News Bias

Mini Lesson Handout

Every day, news outlets report on the same events but the way they tell the story can sound very different. Some use positive or negative words, choose certain images, or focus on one side more than another. This is called **news bias**.

Learning to recognize bias helps us think critically, make fair judgments, and understand multiple perspectives instead of just one.



**Key Terms to Remember**

| TERM            | DEFINITION  | EXAMPLE   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Bias            | Favoring one side or opinion more than another            | A news report praises one candidate but criticizes others |
| Framing         | How information is presented to shape how readers see it  | Emphasizing a protest's traffic delay vs. its message     |
| Tone            | The writer's attitude or feeling toward the topic         | positive, negative, neutral                               |
| Loaded Language | Words with strong emotional meaning, positive or negative | "Wasteful spending" vs. "bold investment"                 |
| Perspective     | The point of view from which a story is told              | Local resident vs. government official                    |

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Use this handout to lead a discussion on how different news sources can present the same event in distinct ways

# News Bias Analysis Activity

Students will analyze word choice, describe the effect on readers, and determine whether each article provided conveys a positive, negative, or neutral tone

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOGNIZING NEWS BIAS

Media Bias Worksheet

**Instructions:**  
Read the news excerpts. They all talk about the same event but come from different sources. Look for words that sound positive, or negative. Use the chart to show what kind of bias or tone each article has.

News Story 1: \_\_\_\_\_

| SOURCE / OUTLET | LOADED LANGUAGE<br>(Words or Phrases) | EFFECT ON READER<br>(Framing or Perspective) | TONE<br>(Positive / Negative / Neutral) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|                 |                                       |  |   |
|                 |                                       |  |   |
|                 |                                       |  |   |
|                 |                                       |  |   |
|                 |                                       |  |   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOGNIZING NEWS BIAS

Media Bias Worksheet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

| LOADED LANGUAGE<br>(Words or Phrases) | EFFECT ON READER<br>(Framing or Perspective) | TONE<br>(Positive / Negative / Neutral) |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                       |  |   |
|                                       |  |   |
|                                       |  |   |
|                                       |  |   |
|                                       |  |   |

#### Youth Climate Protests Around the World

**SOURCE A**

Critics said student climate strikes disrupt education and exaggerate the issue. Some politicians argued that young protesters should stay in class instead of joining "public stunts." Others claimed that global protests pressure governments without offering realistic solutions.  
*(Adapted from Fox News)*

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#### Youth Climate Protests Around the World

**SOURCE B**

Student groups in more than 50 countries organized climate protests, calling on governments to meet international climate goals. Some schools supported the demonstrations as civic engagement, while others marked students absent. Officials said the events were mostly peaceful, though some cities reported traffic delays.  
*(Adapted from Reuters)*

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#### Youth Climate Protests Around the World

**SOURCE C**

Young people around the world took to the streets to demand urgent action on climate change. Marches were peaceful and full of energy, with students holding signs that read "Our future matters." Environmental groups praised the movement, saying it shows how students are becoming global leaders for change.  
*(Adapted from BBC News)*

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These cards contain short excerpts from multiple outlets (e.g., Fox News, Reuters, BBC News) covering the same event.

Topics include climate protests, AI in classrooms, and health regulations.

Each source is carefully selected to highlight subtle differences in language and perspective.

**INCLUDES  
18  
STORIES!**