

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Spot the Spin: Sifting Subtext in 8th Grade Media Literacy Quizzes

Deconstruct digital deceptions, decode hidden agendas, and differentiate between objective reporting and persuasive framing in modern news cycles.

1. Which term describes the practice of using emotionally charged language to influence an audience's perception of a news story?

Answer: B) Sensationalism

Sensationalism uses shocking or exaggerated language to provoke public interest at the expense of accuracy or neutrality.

2. A news outlet chooses to report on a specific scientific study while ignoring three others that contradict it. This is an example of:

Answer: C) Bias by selection or omission

Bias by selection or omission occurs when a media source purposefully leaves out certain facts or perspectives to support a specific narrative.

3. Which of the following is the most reliable way to verify the credibility of a social media post claiming a 'breaking news' event?

Answer: C) Lateral reading by checking multiple established news organizations

Lateral reading involves leaving the original site to see what other reputable sources say about the same claim, a key media literacy skill.

4. In media analysis, what does the 'target audience' represent?

Answer: B) The specific group of people for whom a message is designed

The target audience is the specific demographic (based on age, interests, etc.) that the creators intend to reach and influence.

5. Which of these headlines demonstrates the most 'neutral' or objective tone?

Answer: B) City Council Votes to Redirect Park Funding

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Option B uses factual, non-judgmental verbs and avoids 'loaded' adjectives like 'outrageous' or 'greedy,' maintaining an objective stance.