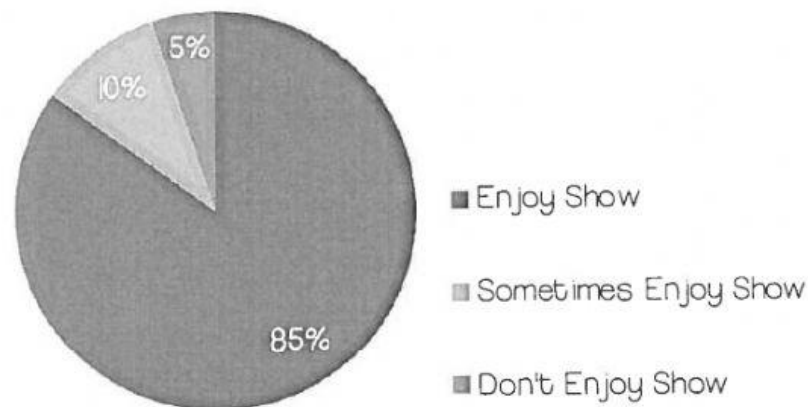# What is the Bias?

Scenario #1:

John is a radio host who has a popular morning show every weekday from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. He is polling his listeners with a survey set up on his website. He wants to know the number of listeners who enjoy his show. The data is below.

LISTENER FEEDBACK

5%
10%
85%

■ Enjoy Show

■ Sometimes Enjoy Show

■ Don't Enjoy Show

	Frequency	Relative Frequency	Percentage	Sector
Enjoy the Show	85	0.85	85%	306°
Sometimes Enjoy Show	10	0.10	10%	36°
Do not Enjoy Show	5	0.05	5%	18°
Total	100	1	100%	360°

Is the above survey and results an example of bias? If so, explain why. Identify what could have been done differently to have a more fair representation of the general population.
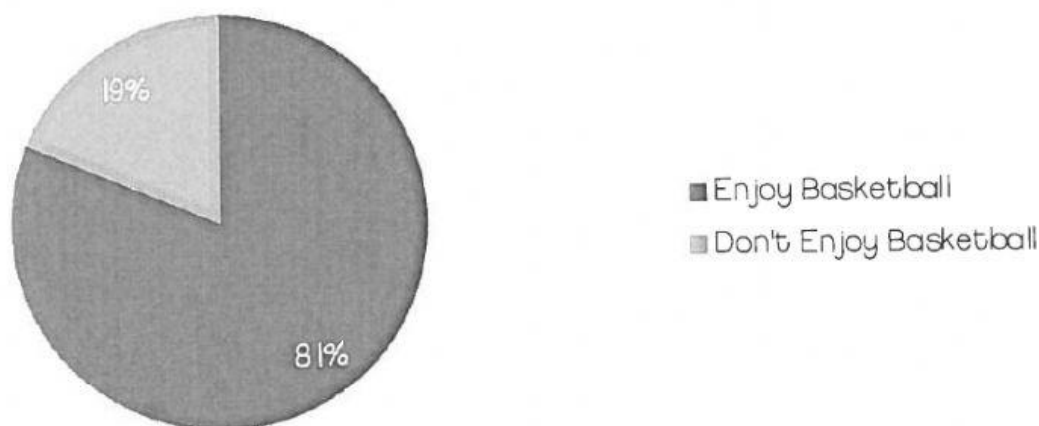
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What is the Bias?

Scenario #2:

Michael was wondering how many students in his school enjoyed basketball. He surveyed both the primary and junior basketball teams - 60 students total, and an additional 20 students selected randomly from the school.

STUDENTS WHO LIKE BASKETBALL

19%

81%

■ Enjoy Basketball
■ Don't Enjoy Basketball

	Frequency	Relative Frequency	Percentage	Sector
Enjoy basketball	65	0.812	81.2%	81%
Do not enjoy basketball	15	0.187	18.7%	19%
Total	80	1	100%	360°

Is the above survey and results an example of bias? If so, explain why. Identify what could have been done differently to have a more fair representation of the general population of the school.

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Name: Date:

Exploring Bias

Let's Think About It . . .

Bias is a concentration or favouring for one group, area, subject or thing. Bias, unfortunately, can affect the results of our surveys. There are certain ways that we can attempt to avoid incorporating bias into our surveys and our data results.

Using the space below, identify how bias might impact the results of a survey. Then, explain how an individual who is creating a survey can prevent bias from impacting their survey and results.

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