

Lesson E Writing

A An impartial text gives only facts. A biased text gives opinions for or against its topic. A text can be openly biased (if opinions are presented as opinions), or covertly biased (when opinions are presented as facts). Read the four versions of the same story and match them with the descriptions.

- a. impartial
- b. covertly biased for
- c. covertly biased against
- d. openly biased against

1. Residents Prevent Drivers from Going to Work Normally

A few residents of an area in Freehold have made going to work very difficult for a lot of people by putting old and ugly furniture in the streets. They claim they are concerned about vehicles speeding in the area. They had asked the city council to do something, but they were rightly ignored. A driver, with understandable anger, called the police, but when the officers arrived, they shockingly allowed the protest to go on, with the excuse that it was peaceful.

2. Concerned Parents Peacefully Protest Against Speeding

Residents of a quiet neighborhood in Freehold, tired of the city council's inaction, have put furniture in the streets to force drivers to slow down. They are rightly concerned about vehicles speeding in their streets, especially near an elementary school. "We have repeatedly asked the city council to look into the problem," said Mary Smith, mother of two. Shockingly, however, the council has ignored the residents' understandable fears that something terrible might happen. An insensitive driver called the police, but when the officers arrived, they allowed the good-humored protest to go on. "It's a peaceful protest," said the police captain with a smile. "It only slows cars down."

3. Residents Protest Against Speeding

In what I consider an extreme initiative, residents of a neighborhood in Freehold have put furniture in the streets to force drivers to slow down. While I can understand their concerns about vehicles speeding in their area, I don't think they have the right to make people's journey to work difficult. They said they had asked the city council to do something, but no action was taken. In my opinion, these people should let the council consider their options and allow people like the driver who called the police to go earn their money. When the officers arrived, they allowed the protest to go on. In my view, this was a mistake: What will these people do next? Force everybody to bike?

4. Residents Protest Against Speeding

Residents of a quiet neighborhood in Freehold have put furniture in the streets to force drivers to slow down. They are concerned about vehicles speeding in their area, especially near an elementary school. "We have repeatedly asked the city council to look into the problem," said Mary Smith, mother of two, "but they have done nothing. We want them to act before something terrible happens." A driver called the police, but when the officers arrived, they allowed the protest to go on. "It's a peaceful protest," said the police captain. "It only slows cars down."