

Lesson Plan:

Identifying bias and framing in headlines

LEVEL	TIME	TOPIC
Advanced (C1/C2)	60 minutes	Identifying bias and framing in headlines

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to analyze how word choice and omitted context shape a headline. They will also use evidence from the supplied material and appropriate language to explain a choice or qualify a claim.

Materials

Whiteboard, pens, and paper. Copy or display the supplied model and practice details; hide partner-only details until checking. All sample data are fictional.

Warm-Up Activity (8 minutes)

Activity: Ask which words add evaluation beyond the vote count.

Presentation (15 minutes)

Examine agency, loaded labels, passive constructions, and missing scale; separate framing from factual inaccuracy.

Language support: foregrounds, frames, loaded, agency; implies rather than proves. Analyze wording while holding facts constant.

Worked model / source: Facts: council voted 6-3 for a four-week parking trial. Headlines: Council approves parking trial / Council forces through divisive parking plan / Parking experiment wins six votes. None reports effects because the trial has not begun.

Guided Practice (15 minutes)

Activity: Underline framing choices, identify omitted duration, and rewrite the second headline more neutrally. Discuss whether divisive is supported by a split vote alone.

Suggested answers / teacher notes: Forces through adds coercive framing; divisive needs context. Neutral: Council votes 6-3 for four-week parking trial.

Procedure: Complete the first item together. Partners attempt the remaining items before seeing the notes. Ask them to explain a correction, then rehearse the corrected version.

Independent Practice (17 minutes)

Task: Write two factually accurate headlines emphasizing approval versus opposition. Add a 70-word explanation of wording choices and one context detail readers still need.

Success check: Check both versions preserve trial status and vote. Stronger learners analyze agency and the effect of omitting duration.

Support and challenge: Offer the target phrase frames during planning. For a challenge, ask learners to justify a wording choice, consider a different audience, or identify a limitation without adding unsupported information.

Wrap-Up / Review (5 minutes)

Review: Ask for a neutral rewrite of a slanted headline.

Ask learners to explain their response using the model or practice material. Revisit one shared difficulty before collecting the final work.

Homework (Optional)

Find two headlines on one event and compare what each foregrounds.

Follow-up: Use the supplied model as a reference. Bring the response back for a brief partner check against the lesson objective; correct one detail or language choice before submitting it.