STUDENT WORKSHEET · MEDIA LITERACY

The word audit

Two outlets report the same event. Neither has lied. Find the word that changes what you believe.

Name _____ Date _____

1. The story

In one sentence, what happened? Use the facts only — no opinions yet.

2. Two headlines, same event

Copy a headline from two different outlets exactly as written.

OUTLET A

OUTLET B

3. The word doing the work

Find ONE word or phrase that would most change a reader's impression if you swapped it. Look hardest at verbs, and at sentences where something happens but nobody does it.

THE WORD THEY USED

SWAP IT FOR

Examples: "crackdown" for "new rules" · "admitted" for "said" · "clashes broke out" for "police charged the crowd"

NOW READ THE HEADLINE BACK WITH YOUR SWAP. WHAT CHANGED?

4. The question to take away

Neither outlet printed anything untrue. So: did either of them mislead you? Does your answer change if they knew the effect the word would have?

readtheprism.com · free to copy and adapt under CC BY 4.0 · summaries are AI-written and should be checked against the outlet links