

Education

**MEDIA
LITERACY
WEEK**

BIAS ILLUSTRATED



Challenge your writing skills by re-interpreting what you see in this comic strip based activity.

Each of these comic strips feature a news story that has been written in a particular way. The task for students is to show that by changing the language used in the report they can change the way that a story is perceived.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS

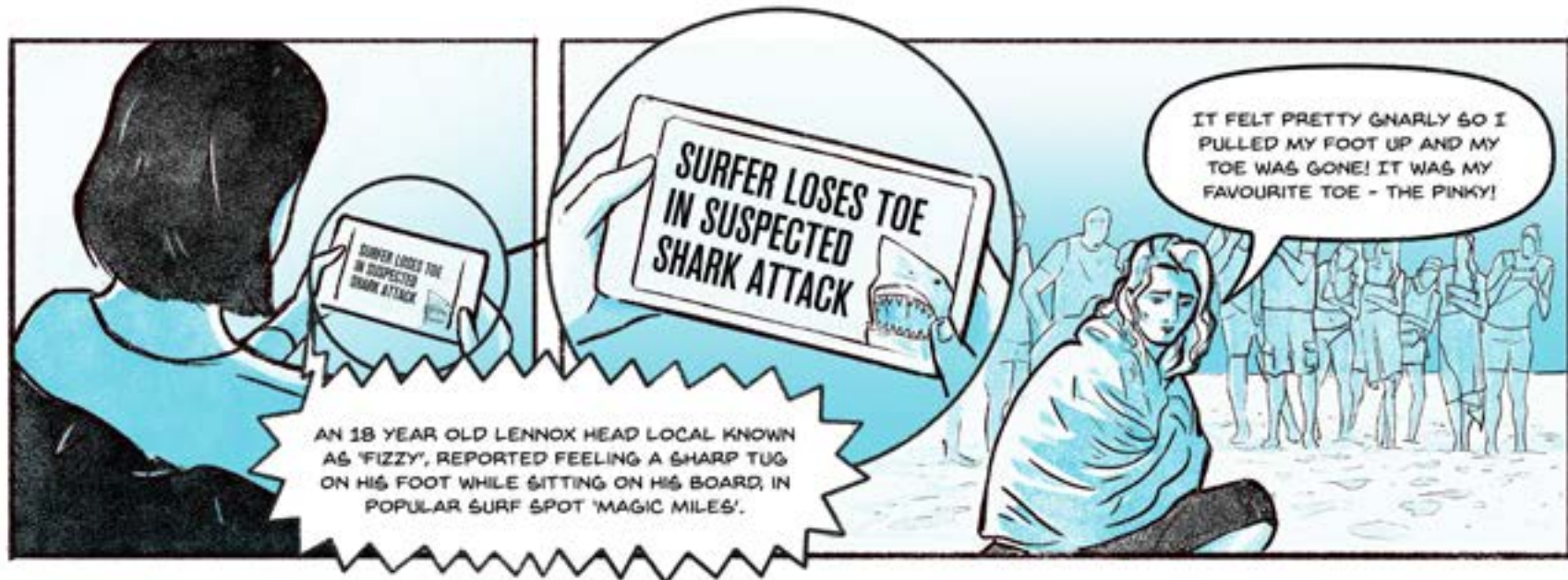
1. Watch the video resources about bias under the **Questioning the News** on the media literacy website.
2. Print out and look at the example story 'Shark Attack', then discuss the questions listed below.
3. Try the writing challenge: 'Protest'.

Example Story: Shark Attack

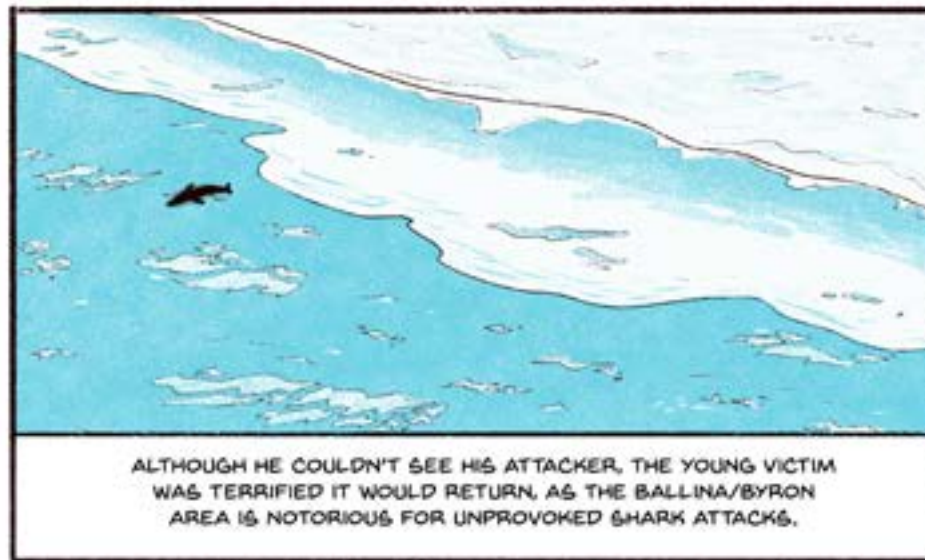
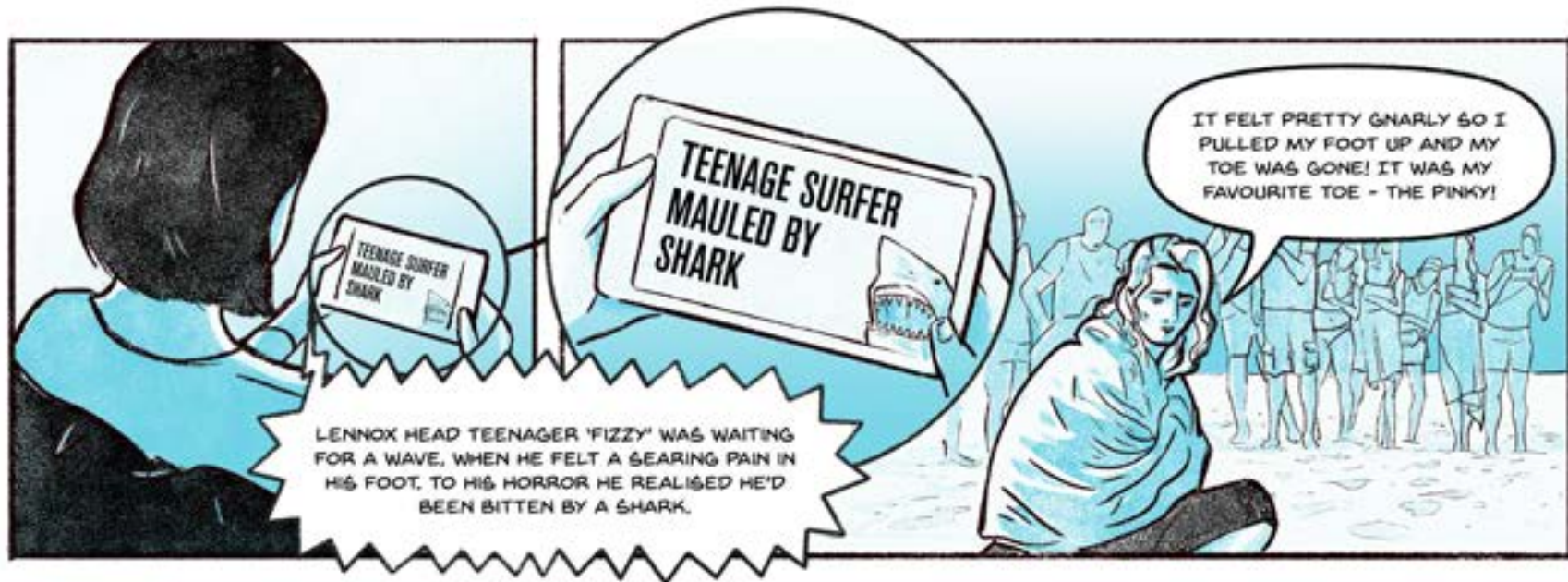
Below are three versions of the story written in three different ways.

- *What are the differences you can see between the first version of the story and the other two?*
- *How would you describe the reporting style of each story?*
- *Can you identify bias or a particular purpose for each article?*

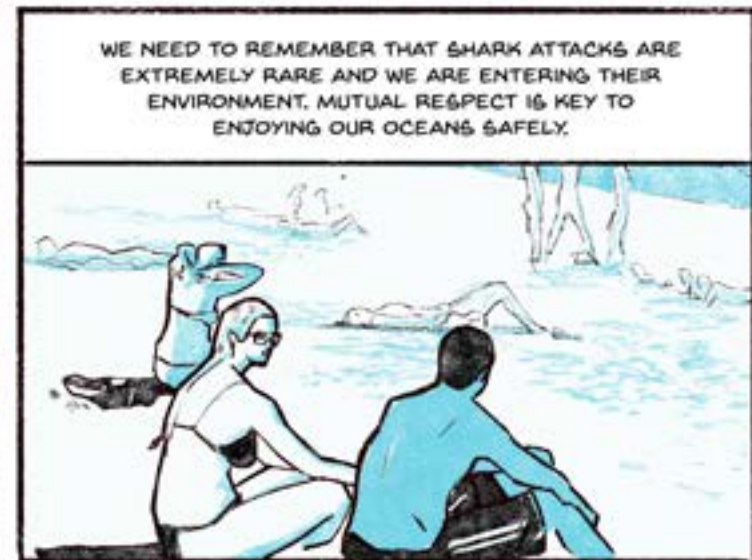
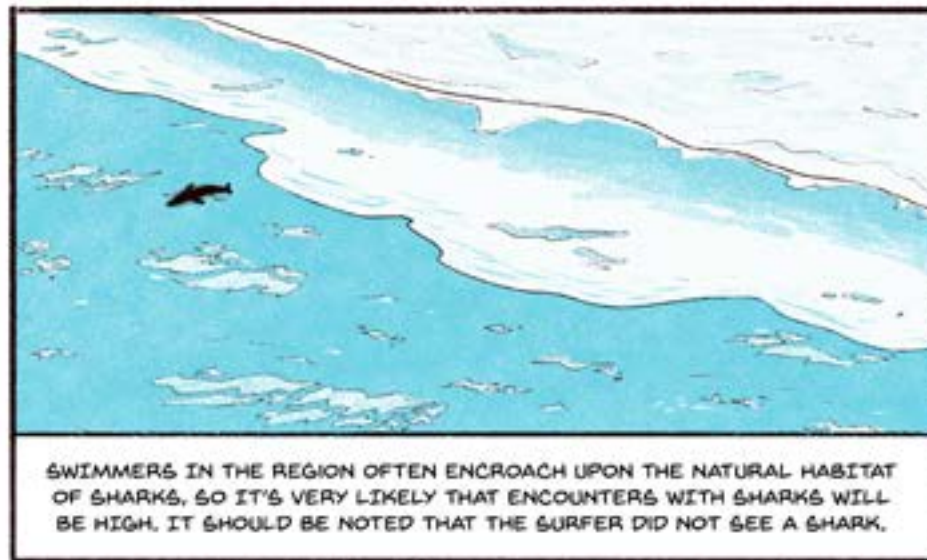
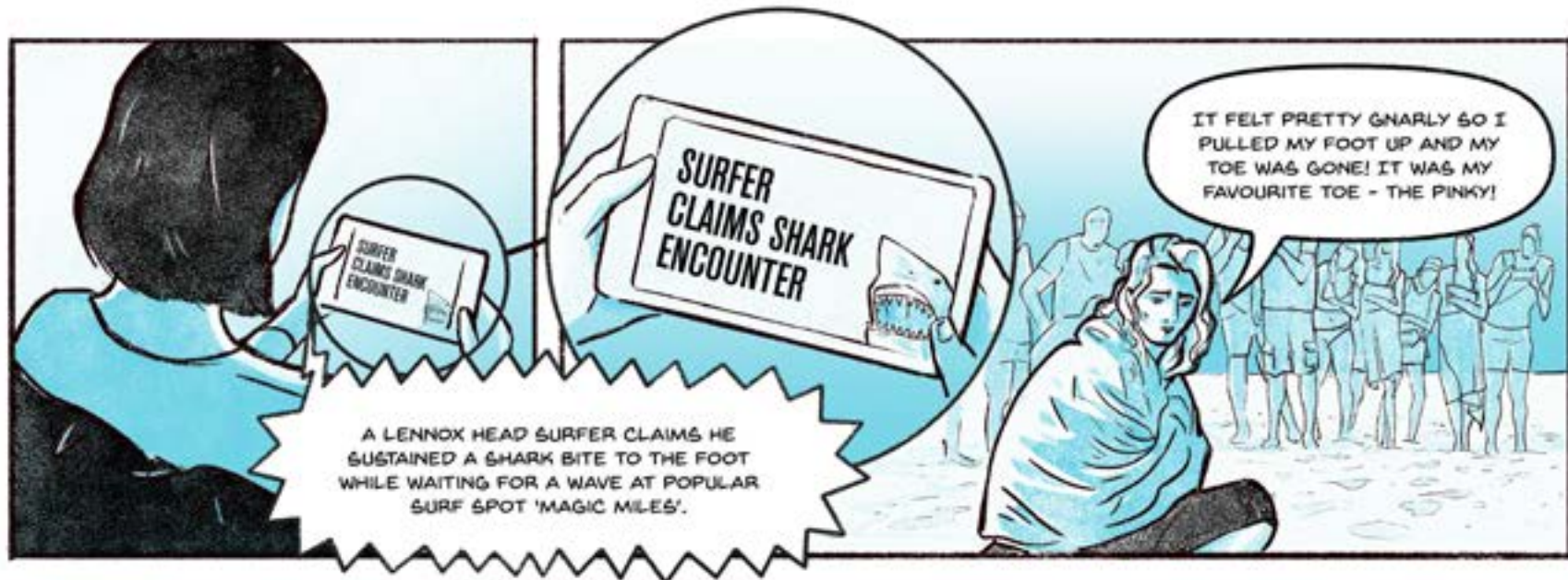
'SHARK ATTACK': Version 1



'SHARK ATTACK': Version 2



'SHARK ATTACK': Version 3



'PROTEST' Writing Exercise

This story has been written as an **unbiased report** on what happened outside the music venue.

Using the blank templates below:

1. Try writing it using language that is negative toward the protesters and what they want.
2. Try writing it using language that is negative toward the police and the measures they took.



'PROTEST' worksheet: negative to protesters



'PROTEST' worksheet: negative to police

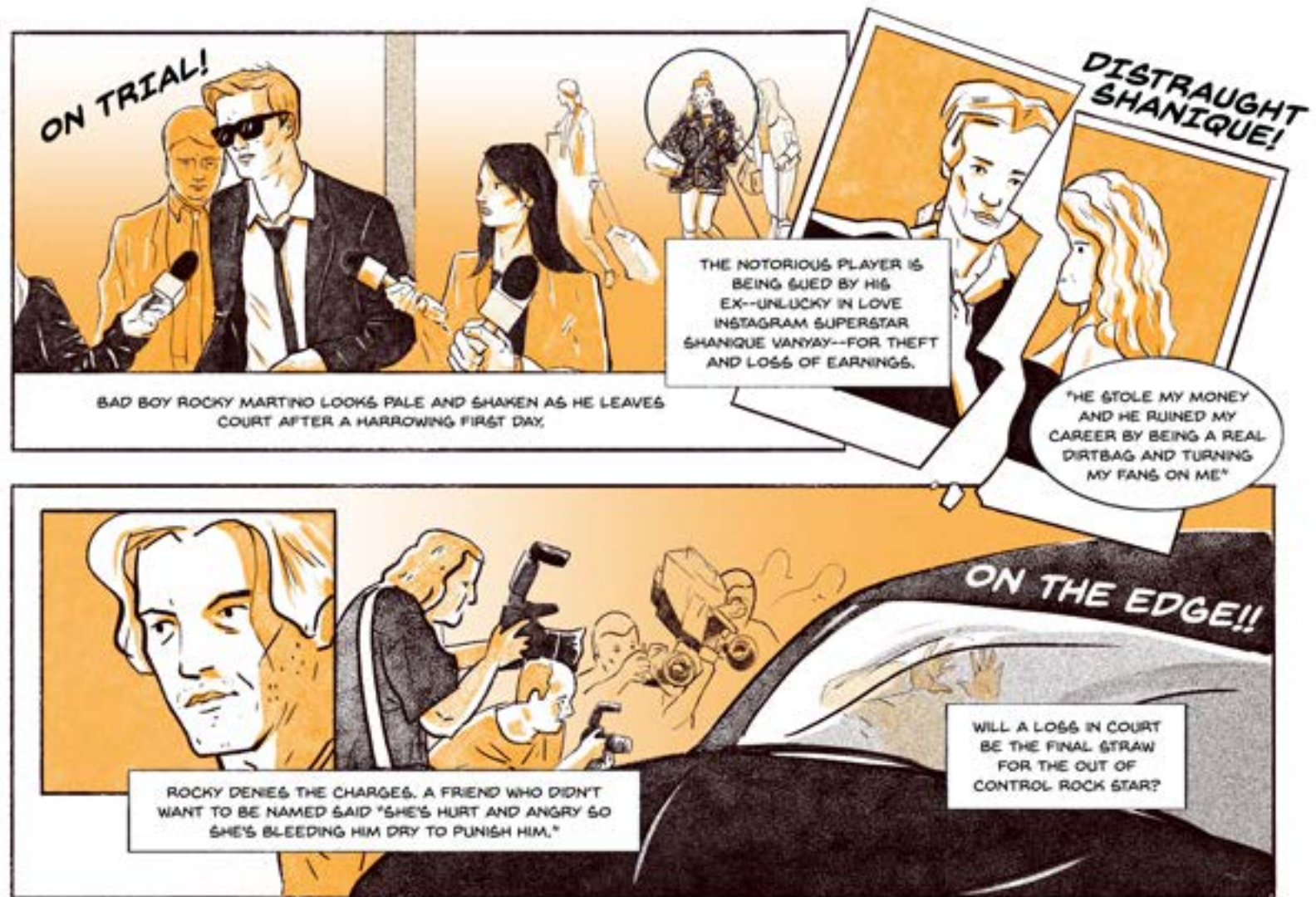


'CELEBRITY TRIAL' Writing Exercise

This story has been written in a style often used by celebrity entertainment magazines. It suggests that the celebrity is on trial because he has upset his ex-girlfriend.

Using the blank templates below:

1. Try rewriting the story as a piece of unbiased, straight reporting on the trial.
2. Try rewriting the story as though the journalist is favourable towards Shanique's case.



'CELEBRITY TRIAL' worksheet: unbiased reporting



'CELEBRITY TRIAL' worksheet: Rocky is guilty



'MILKBAR ROBBERY' Writing Exercise

Using the example story 'Shark attack' as inspiration, try rewriting this story in 2 different ways.

Using the blank templates:

1. As a straight unbiased report on the robbery.
2. Using language designed to alarm your readers about violent crime.



'MILKBAR ROBBERY' worksheet: violent crime on the rise

