

UNBIASED REPORTING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PRE-GAMEPLAY

Elicit Background Knowledge

To prepare students for playing “Unbiased Reporting” of *After the Storm*, stimulate a discussion about objectivity in journalism by asking these questions:

1. Write on the board: *Biased: having an unfair tendency to believe that some people, ideas, or things are better than others.* Ask what the opposite of biased is. (*Unbiased: not having an unfair tendency to believe people, ideas, or things are superior to others.*)
2. Read aloud the following statements. After you’ve read each one, have students identify it as biased or unbiased—and say why.
 - Mayor Young is holding a daily press conference to update residents of Port Douglas about the progress of storm cleanup (*Unbiased: it just reports a fact*)
 - Zeke could be dangerous, and should be locked up. (*Based: it is based on an unfair tendency to believe all people who have fantasies or delusions are a danger to others*)
 - In all hurricane cleanups, businesses should be brought back to normal before people’s homes are. (*Biased: it is based on an unfair assumption that getting businesses running is more important than helping individuals*)
3. Why is it so important to be unbiased when writing news stories? (*Answers will vary, but students should understand that news stories must never reflect the personal biases of a reporter or writer, but should instead report only what happened, as supported by evidence, allowing readers to make their own judgments.*)

