

Name: _____



Read the following exchanges to determine the possible reasons that a lawyer might object to the question or answer, and check the appropriate reason or reasons for objection. Explain why that is the reason based on the witness's answer. List which answers indicate bias and which indicate impartiality.

Now, rewrite each witness statement in a way that demonstrates impartiality and fairness.

1. Lawyer: What happened next?

Witness: John heard something and went outside and yelled out that he saw Ken break the garage door.

☐ Relevance ☐ Hearsay ☐ Opinion ☐ Speculation

2. Lawyer: What did you see when you returned home?

Witness: The garage door was broken. Ken had broken it. It must have been him because no one else was home at the time.

☐ Relevance ☐ Hearsay ☐ Opinion ☐ Speculation

3. Lawyer: What did you make for breakfast that morning?

Witness: I usually make pancakes on Saturday, but that morning I made scrambled eggs. They're my favorite.

☐ Relevance ☐ Hearsay ☐ Opinion ☐ Speculation

4. Lawyer: Do you know the defendant?

Witness: No. I've never met him, but my wife knows him and says he is not very nice. I'm sure that he broke the garage door.

☐ Relevance ☐ Hearsay ☐ Opinion ☐ Speculation

5. Lawyer: Did you notice anything unusual?

Witness: The door of the garage next to us was broken. It's a shame; it was the best-looking garage in the neighborhood. I wish mine looked like that.

☐ Relevance ☐ Hearsay ☐ Opinion ☐ Speculation

6. Lawyer: How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

Witness: I've lived there for five years. I moved there when I got a new job. I was happy to live in the neighborhood, but I didn't like Ken when I first met him.

☐ Relevance ☐ Hearsay ☐ Opinion ☐ Speculation



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