

# Writing Section

TOPIC: Active vs. Passive Voice  
(Because we all want to be heard.)

# Essential Questions

1. What is the difference between active voice and passive voice?
2. When should I use the passive voice instead of the active voice in my own writing?

# Active vs Passive

Consider the following:

The cheerleader was kissed by the quarterback.

The quarterback kissed the cheerleader.

The quarterback was kissed by the cheerleader.

The cheerleader kissed the quarterback.

# Active vs Passive

In a sentence using **active voice**, the subject of the sentence performs the action expressed in the verb.

The dog bit the boy.

Scientists have conducted experiments on the hypothesis.

Watching the world through a cars windshield reminds me of watching a movie or TV.

# Active vs Passive

In a sentence using **passive voice**, the subject is acted upon; he or she receives the action expressed by the verb. The agent performing the action may appear in a "by the..." phrase or may be omitted.

The boy was bit by the dog.

Experiments on the hypothesis have been conducted by scientists.

I am reminded of watching a movie or TV by watching the world through a car's windshield.

# Active vs Passive

For standardized tests like STAAR, ACT, and SAT, active voice is preferred.

Why? It is usually more concise and straightforward.

In the real world, however, there are reasons to be passive i.e. pass blame, shift focus, etc.

# Active vs Passive

Active or Passive?

The book is being read by most of the class.

# Active vs Passive

Active or Passive?

Results will be published in the next issue of the  
journal.



# Active vs Passive

Active or Passive?

A policy of white washing and coverup has been pursued by the CIA director and his advisors.

# Active vs Passive

Active or Passive?

Mistakes were made.

# Active vs Passive

Active or Passive?

The presiding officer vetoed the committee's recommendation.

# Active vs Passive

Active or Passive?

The leaders are seeking a fair resolution to the crisis.

# Active vs Passive

Active or Passive?

Scientists have discovered traces of ice on the surface of Mars.

Here's a video to show how this issue affects scientists in the real world.

