In the new world of Twitter and Facebook, student journalists are mixing news and "journalism of affirmation" like this:

*“Come support your lady cougar volleyball team tonight as they "dig for a cure" Your lady cougars are going pink for breast cancer awareness!”*

***Question:*** Are the student journalists being participants?

The answer should be directed on the perception of the readers/audience. How does the statement influence an audience? What is their perception. It’s important to make it clear the role student journalists play on campus. Statements like the one mentioned above allow for the perception that the student media supports the team and cause. While in this case one might argue that it’s harmless to support other student organizations or non-profits, it would be better suited to simply identify the cause and the event instead of a statement encouraging support.

***Question:*** Does this cloud or interfere with their ability to be objective?

In this case, one would argue “what’s the harm in supporting the school’s team?” But it’s important to identify how this would look if students are covering the event. Being involved in charitable work is okay, but statements soliciting or encouraging support should be carefully addressed.

READ: [Journalistic Objectivity Evolved the Way It Did for a Reason](https://time.com/5443351/journalism-objectivity-history/)

READ: [An Argument Why Journalists Should Not Abandon Objectivity](https://niemanreports.org/articles/an-argument-why-journalists-should-not-abandon-objectivity/)

WATCH: [Should Journalism Be Objective? Serial: Part 2 | Idea Channel | PBS Digital Studios](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xT0yRXWo6UU)

***ACTIVITY:***

* Work in small groups to develop your definition of objectivity in journalism.
  + Identify what objectivity is and what it looks like…
    - Provide examples of cases where objectivity may be questioned.
    - When is objectivity questioned?
      * Use examples to show when objectivity can be questioned.
        + Example: Serial Podcast.
  + Answer the following question: Do you believe journalists should be objective? Explain your reasoning.