



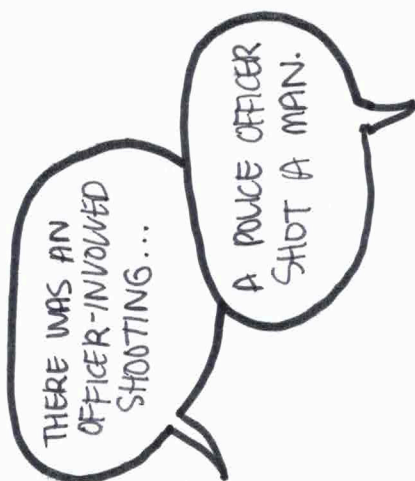
SOMETIMES, YOU DON'T KNOW THE ACTOR, SO YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT VAGUE. BUT OFTEN, PASSIVE VOICE OBSCURES RESPONSIBILITY.



PASSIVE VOICE IS A GRAMMATICAL STYLE WHERE WRITERS OBSCURE OR DIMINISH THE ACTOR IN A SENTENCE. HOW I S...

A LIFE-AND-DEATH GRAMMAR LESSON

PASSIVE VOICE IS FOR COWARDS



THE LANGUAGE WE USE MATTERS. OUR WORD CHOICE SHAPES THE WAY WE SEE THE WORLD—AND WHO TAKES ACTION IN IT.

The New York Times @nytimes · May 26
Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis tweeted Tuesday afternoon that 4 officers involved in the arrest of a man who died after being handcuffed and pinned to the ground by an officer's knee had been fired [nylms/3gmtGca](#)

CBS Chicago
Protest Held On Behalf Of Man Who Died During Arrest in Minneapolis
People protested in Chicago on following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who was being arrested by police in Minneapolis. [1 day ago](#)



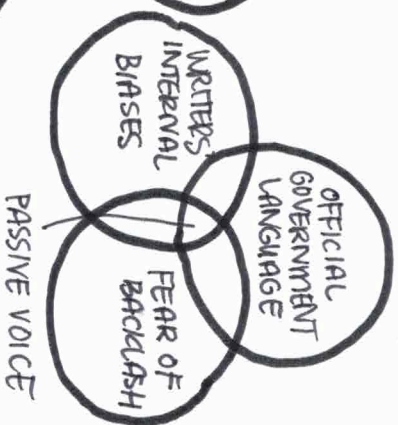
OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TERMS COMBINE WITH PASSIVE VOICE TO OBSCURE THE PEOPLE WHO COMMIT VIOLENCE.

THIS CONVOLUTED TWEET PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY ON... WH... "AN OFFICERS KNEE"?

POLICE OFFICERS DON'T HURT PEOPLE—THEY'RE INVOLVED IN USE-OF-FORCE INCIDENTS."

"MAN WHO DIED DURING ARREST"... WHO FIRED THEM? AND, AGAIN, WHO KILLED HIM? THE MAN?

NBC New York
4 Minneapolis Officers Fired After Death of Black Man
4 Minneapolis Officers Fired After Death of Black Man. The man who died was identified as George Floyd. By Amy Fentell and Jeff Bauman · [1 day ago](#)



NOWHERE IS PASSIVE VOICE MORE WIDESPREAD AND INSIDIOUS THAN IN OUR LANGUAGE AROUND POLICE.



JOURNALISTS HAVE A BAD HABIT OF USING PASSIVE VOICE WHEN THEY FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE NAMING A PERPETRATOR.

ACTIVE
U.S. DRONE STRIKE KILLS 60 PEOPLE

LET'S REVERSE.

PASSIVE
60 PEOPLE WERE KILLED BY DRONE STRIKE