

Neutrality = The quality or state of being neutral

neutral

- not engaged on either side
- taking a stance of non-interference or impartiality
- not advancing the goals and positions of any party involved

Examples of Neutrality

- A country like Switzerland not taking sides in a war
- A referee maintaining fairness during a game
- An individual staying out of a family dispute to avoid fueling the conflict

Opposites of Neutrality

Bias, partisanship, prejudice, favoritism, partiality, favor, one-sidedness, subjectivity, inclination, predilection, tendency, penchant, predisposition, propensity, leaning...

Key Aspects

- It's not Apathy: While some individuals may simply be uninterested, neutrality often means *actively setting aside personal views* for a professional role (soldier or journalist).
- It's distinct from Advocacy: It separates the role of law-making (legislature) from implementation (neutral public servants).
- The goal is to maintain Trust: The core goal is to maintain confidence that institutions and individuals within them are fair and not driven by partisan interests.

Neutrality and Libraries

Library neutrality refers to a core professional value that libraries should provide impartial access to information across the ideological spectrum without endorsing specific political or social viewpoints, and that librarians should not allow personal convictions to influence the selection of materials or services, ensuring all points of view are represented.

Neutrality is essential for a democratic, non-biased information environment.

OR

Neutrality is a myth, and libraries should intentionally advocate for certain viewpoints

Let's discuss!