## 1 Here's the Idea

**The voice of an action verb indicates whether the subject performs or receives the action.**

A verb is in the **active voice** when the subject performs the action.

A verb is in the **passive voice** when the action is received by the subject.

SUBJECT VERB

**Mary Harris "Mother" Jones supported child labor laws.**

**Active Voice** The subject performs the action.

SUBJECT VERB

**Child labor laws were supported by Mary Harris "Mother" Jones.**

**Passive Voice** The subject receives the action.

Form the passive voice by using a form of the verb *be* and the past participle of the main verb. Use it to 1) emphasize the receiver of the action or 2) show that the doer of the action is unimportant or unknown.

**Millions of women and children have been helped by Mother Jones's activism.**

FORM OF BE PAST PARTICIPLE

FORM OF BE

**Jones was known as "the mother of the laboring class."**

PAST PARTICIPLE

Only transitive verbs—ones that can take direct objects—can be used in the passive voice.

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