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What is fact and opinion examples

What's the difference between a fact and an opinion? Some people may think they are quite similar, but actually, a fact and an opinion are very different ideas. Keep reading for fact vs. opinion examples that should help you understand which is which. fact vs opinion with sentence examples A fact is an objective piece of information that can be proven true or false. It can be verified with more than one piece of reliable evidence. You'll find facts in science, math, history, and everyday life. Here are some verifiable facts that are not up for debate because they can be proven with evidence. There's an easy way to prove this fact right: if you hold your breath, what happens? When you can't breathe, your heart has no oxygenated blood to pump, and your brain cells begin to die. Depriving a living thing of oxygen results in its death. You can prove that the capital of Mexico is Mexico City by consulting any number of resources, including maps, encyclopedias and Mexican officials themselves. While it wasn't always called Mexico City (it was once the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán), it is currently the country's capital. Verifying that people keep dogs as pets is as simple as looking around your neighborhood — or maybe even your own house! There's nothing opinionated about the fact that some people have pet dogs. Look at your nearest calendar. What's marked for February 14th? Valentine's Day, the holiday that celebrates love and romance, is likely written into that square. If verifying the information on your calendar isn't enough, try looking up the history of the holiday. Our understanding that ocean covers over 70% of Earth's surface isn't just a guess or hypothesis. It's compiled from the studies of explorers, cartographers, geographers, geologists, marine biologists, and more scientists over many millennia. We can state this finding as a fact because it has been proven over and over again. History can be a tricky subject because it's difficult to find purely objective facts. As they say, history is written by the winners. However, it's difficult to argue with recorded historical events such as the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee on April 9, 1865. No matter what your opinions are about the American Civil War, it's easy to prove that this event happened, making the Union Army victorious. If you doubt a scientific fact, the scientific method is here to prove it for you. Enough scientists have tested the temperature at which water freezes, and have determined that the answer is 0 degrees Celsius (or 32 degrees Fahrenheit). If you have any doubt, look outside during winter when it gets that cold. You're likely to see some frozen water! Voting rights are another area where people have a lot of opinions. But no one can argue with the existence of the 19th Amendment in the United States Constitution. It was ratified in 1920, giving women the right to vote. Unlike facts, opinions can't be verified. They can be supported by evidence as in persuasive writing, but don't need to be. Anyone can have any opinion about anything because it doesn't need to be based in reality. Take the facts listed above and see how they are different as opinion statements. You could argue that because we need oxygen to survive (a fact), that it's the most important element. But that's your opinion. Someone else could argue that carbon is the most important element because organic compounds would not exist without it. Others might claim that hydrogen is just as important as oxygen. You can support all these opinions with evidence, but that doesn't make them facts. Saying that something is "the best" is always an opinion statement — even when you're sure most people would agree with you. Mexico City is the capital of Mexico and that's a fact, but deciding whether it's the best city in Mexico is a matter of opinion. This is a popular opinion, but that doesn't mean it's a fact. Some may argue that dogs are terrible pets based on their personal experience. Others may claim that dogs are fine, but cats are better. Again, there's no way to validate this opinion. The date of Valentine's Day is a fact, but how you feel about it is an opinion. People use anecdotes and personal stories to form opinions such as whether a holiday is the "best" or "worst" holiday. This opinion would make a great topic for an argument essay, but in the end, it's someone's personal opinion. They can use lots of evidence to back up this idea, including the value of desalinating water to make it suitable for drinking. However, it's still not a verifiable fact. The result of the Civil War was a Union victory — but did they fight better than the Confederacy? Many might say that the proof is in the results, as the Union did win. Others may claim that the Confederacy won more battles and gained more land in the first few years of the war, and therefore fought more effectively. It depends on your perspective, what evidence you're using and what you're trying to argue. How cold is too cold? The answer will vary because everyone grows up with different experiences. People who live in warmer areas may believe that 0 degrees Celsius is simply too cold, while those who live in snowy or freezing climates may think that 0 degrees is perfectly enjoyable. You can't argue that water freezes at 0 degrees, because it does, but you can absolutely argue whether you like that weather or not. Sometimes an opinion is so popular that people confuse it for fact. However, believing that women should be allowed to vote is just that: a belief and an opinion. Backing up these opinions through legislature and Constitional amendments ensures that a country's values are protected against changing minds or movements. Now that you know the difference between facts and opinions, how can you easily tell which is which? Keep an eye out for these fact and opinion signal words, which can quickly tell you what type of statement you are reading or hearing. Fact Signal WordsOpinion Signal Wordsverifiedthink, feel, believepeer-reviewedclaim, arguestatisticsalways, neverprovengood, better, bestconfirmgood, better, bestdiscoveredshould, should notdemonstratedin my point of viewevidencein my experience It gets tricky when people use fact signal words to pretend that their opinions are facts. That's when common sense comes in. If you can't prove or verify a statement, it can't be a fact. The next time you're reading an article or watching the news, you'll be more prepared to tell whether you're hearing a fact or opinion. But don't let your own confirmation bias convince you that a convenient opinion is a proven fact. Use these fact and opinion worksheets to challenge yourself or your students when it comes to telling fact from opinion. M.Ed. Education An author’s purpose can influence the kind of information he or she choses to include. Thinking about the reason an author produced a source can be helpful to you because that reason was what dictated the kind of information he/she chose to include. Depending on that purpose, the author may have chosen to include factual, analytical, and objective information. Or, instead, it may have suited his/her purpose to include information that was subjective and therefore less factual and analytical. The author’s reason for producing the source also determined whether he or she included more than one perspective or just his/her own. Authors typically want to do at least one of the following: Inform and educate Persuade Sell services or products or Entertain Combined Purposes Sometimes authors have a combination of purposes, as when a marketer decides he can sell more smart phones with an informative sales video that also entertains us. The same is true when a singer writes and performs a song that entertains us but that she intends to make available for sale. Other examples of authors having multiple purposes occur in most scholarly writing. In those cases, authors certainly want to inform and educate their audiences. But they also want to persuade their audiences that what they are reporting and/or postulating is a true description of a situation, event, or phenomenon or a valid argument that their audience must take a particular action. In this blend of scholarly author’s purposes, the intent to educate and inform is considered to trump the intent to persuade. Why Intent Matters Authors’ intent usually matters in how useful their information can be to your research project, depending on which information need you are trying to meet. For instance, when you’re looking for sources that will help you actually decide your answer to your research question or evidence for your answer that you will share with your audience, you will want the author’s main purpose to have been to inform or educate his/her audience. That’s because, with that intent, he/she is likely to have used: Facts where possible. Multiple perspectives instead of just his/her own. Little subjective information. Seemingly unbiased, objective language that cites where he/she got the information. The reason you want that kind of resource when trying to answer your research question or explaining that answer is that all of those characteristics will lend credibility to the argument you are making with your project. Both you and your audience will simply find it easier to believe—will have more confidence in the argument being made—when you include those types of sources. Sources whose authors intend only to persuade others won’t meet your information need for an answer to your research question or evidence with which to convince your audience. That’s because they don’t always confine themselves to facts. Instead, they tell us their opinions without backing them up with evidence. If you used those sources, your readers will notice and not believe your argument. Fact vs. Opinion vs. Objective vs. Subjective Need to brush up on the differences between fact, objective information, subjective information, and opinion? Fact – Facts are useful to inform or make an argument. Examples: The United States was established in 1776. The pH levels in acids are lower than pH levels in alkalines. Beethoven had a reputation as a virtuoso pianist. Opinion – Opinions are useful to persuade, but careful readers and listeners will notice and demand evidence to back them up. Examples: That was a good movie. Strawberries taste better blueberries. George Clooney is the sexiest actor alive. The death penalty is wrong. Beethoven’s reputation as a virtuoso pianist is overrated. Objective – Objective information reflects a research finding or multiple perspectives that are not biased. Examples: “Several studies show that an active lifestyle reduces the risk of heart disease and diabetes.” “Studies from the Brown University Medical School show that twenty-somethings eat 25 percent more fast-food meals at this age than they did as teenagers.” Subjective – Subjective information presents one person or organization’s perspective or interpretation. Subjective information can be meant to distort, or it can reflect educated and informed thinking. All opinions are subjective, but some are backed up with facts more than others. Examples: “The simple truth is this: As human beings, we were meant to move.” “In their thirties, women should stock up on calcium to ensure strong, dense bones and to ward off osteoporosis later in life.”* *In this quote, it’s mostly the “should” that makes it subjective. The objective version of the last quote would read: “Studies have shown that women who begin taking calcium in their 30s show stronger bone density and fewer repercussions of osteoporosis than women who did not take calcium at all.” But perhaps there are other data showing complications from taking calcium. That’s why drawing the conclusion that requires a “should” makes the statement subjective. Open activity in a web browser. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Hi, I’m Understanding Upin, part of the SUREvivors team! By now you should have learnt about sources of information and how to check their reliability with my friend Source-Finding Sarah. When conducting research for your homework or project work, you’ll often come across sources of information that present facts or opinions. I’ll be helping you to find out more about what they are and how to differentiate between them! Facts What are facts? Facts are statements that are true and can be verified objectively or proven. In other words, a fact is true and correct no matter what. Here are some examples of facts: - The sun is a star. - Humans are mammals. - Living things are made up of one or more cells. Opinions Opinions are statements that reflect the views or ideas that people have about subjects and topics. For example, your friend says that all ice cream is tasty. This is their opinion, because not everyone may think the same way, nor can it be proven to be true. Opinions may not be rooted in fact or be supported by strong evidence, though there are exceptions, such as in the case of expert opinions. Sometimes, the language used in opinions can be deliberately emotional to mislead others. Therefore we need to know the purpose of the message or information. Is it to inform or persuade you to do something or buy a product? Differentiating Fact and Opinion Here are some tips on how to differentiate between fact and opinion. Firstly, ask yourself, “Can it be proven”? Evidence to support a fact can be easily found in books in a library’s reference section, as well as by searching online using reliable sources of information, such as the websites of reputable educational institutions. These sources will provide evidence for the same fact. However, for opinions, what is stated may differ across sources of information. Facts will also be unbiased. They do not support only one perspective and present the information in an objective manner. For opinions, the author’s writing might be biased and written in a way to try to persuade the reader to believe in what he or she is saying. I hope that you now know more about facts and opinions! When doing research, try to look for facts instead of opinions as they are supported by evidence. Now, test out what you have learnt in this quiz HERE. Female working in florist shop: The importance to differentiate between fact and opinion is, for instance, I've just received a promotional e-mail about the hottest digital camcorder. How do I know how good it is?It can be absolute rubbish.It uses the word hottest, which is opinion, not fact.Female with shoulder length brown hair, wearing red top: Nowadays, you get a lot of words thrown at you, a lot of information thrown at you, which is actually trying to sell you something, and you need to be able to, you know, realise that actually this is something they're trying to sell me.It's not actually information.Male working at Oldham Council: This diagram here illustrates the facts of where Oldham's money comes from. Oldham Council's net budget requirement for 2010/11 was £234 million. We know that's a fact, which can be substantiated.

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