

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Fact or Opinion Poster

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Fact or Opinion Poster**—a helpful reminder to students as they look for facts and opinions, complete with several signal words to help students determine which are which.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- **Fact or Opinion Poster**, 24" x 19"
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Introducing the Fact or Opinion Poster

Explain that a fact is an actual thing that exists and is provable, observable, and measurable. Write the following facts on your whiteboard, chalkboard, or chart paper:

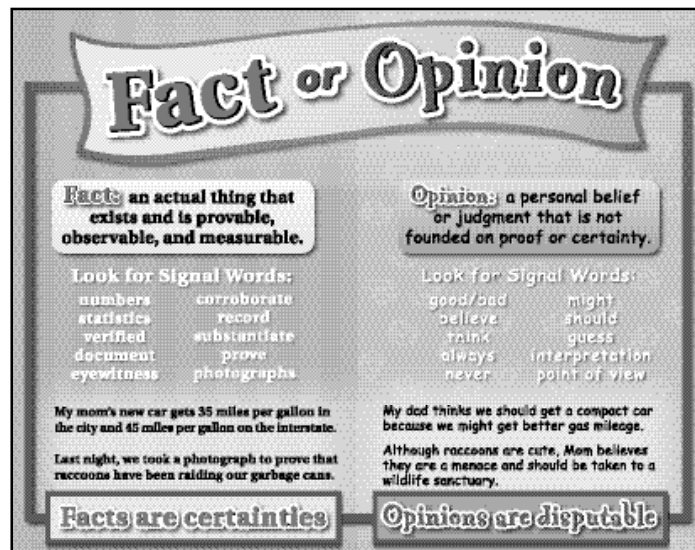
- Sacramento is the capital of California.
- Dolphins are mammals.
- The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world.
- The word *verify* contains three syllables.

Ask students how they might prove that each of these sentences is true. Help the class to make a list of places where students might look. (Remind students that the Internet often contains unreliable information, so they must be sure to search reliable sources.) Other sources might include encyclopedias, almanacs, maps, dictionaries, or an expert in the field.

Explain that an opinion is a personal belief or judgment that is not founded on proof or certainty. List several opinions on the board, such as:

- Pepperoni pizza tastes great.
- Everybody likes peanut butter.
- Soccer is always more fun than basketball.
- Nobody likes mowing the lawn.

Ask students how they might disprove each of the sentences you've written. Students will likely point out an exception to each sentence, such as someone who does



not like peanut butter or a student who likes basketball better than soccer. Explain to students that these opinions show personal beliefs, and they cannot be proven by checking a reliable source, asking an expert, or performing an experiment.

Fact or Opinion Signal Words

Explain to students that signal words can help them to differentiate between fact and opinion. Read aloud the signal words under the “Fact” heading on the poster. Remind students that facts must be provable, and words such as *verified*, *document*, *substantiate*, and *prove* often signal that the sentence is a fact. *Numbers* and *statistics*, and *photographs* are other good signals for facts. Point out to students that signal words are just *signals*; they alone do not guarantee a fact. They are simply indicators that the sentence is likely to be a fact.

Focus students’ attention on the “Opinion” section of the poster. Again, read the signal words aloud. Point out to students that words such as *believe*, *think*, and *guess* are red flags that a person is expressing an opinion. Describing words such as *good*, *better*, *best*, or *bad*, *worse*, and *worst* are other opinion signs. Point out to students that other words such as *everybody*, *all*,

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nobody, and *none* are often signal words that a sentence is an opinion, since there are often exceptions to every rule.

Fact and Opinion Practice

Make another list on your whiteboard with a variety of facts and opinions, such as:

- Spring is the prettiest season because many flowers are blooming.
- All birds have wings, although some birds cannot fly.
- A kilometer is shorter than a mile.
- Long books are more interesting to read than short books.
- Waterskiing is scary, but it's also a lot of fun.

Select a student to read the first sentence aloud, tell whether that sentence is a fact or an opinion, and give evidence to support the answer. Continue writing sentences on the board and helping students determine whether they are facts or opinions. After several students have had the opportunity to answer, allow students to write their own sentences on the whiteboard. Students will enjoy creating sentences in an effort to stump their classmates.

Fact and Opinion Bulletin Board

Provide students with blank drawing paper. Holding the paper horizontally, have students draw a line down the middle of the paper to divide the paper into halves. At the top of one section, have the students write a fact, such as "In Major League Baseball, the baseball must measure between 9" and 9 ¼" in circumference." At the top of the other section, the students should write an opinion on a related topic, such as "The Yankees are the best team in Major League Baseball." Have students draw an illustration underneath each sentence.

Display the **Fact or Opinion Poster** in the middle of a bulletin board. Hang students' fact and opinion papers around the poster for a colorful and informative display.

Fact and Opinion Newspaper Activity

Pair your students and provide each pair a page from the newspaper and two highlighters or markers. Explain to students that newspapers report many facts. They also include opinions in interviews, advertisements, and editorial pieces. Ask students to highlight or underline facts and opinions on their newspaper pages, using a different color for each. When students have finished, have them trade their newspaper page with another student pair to check their work.

Facts and Opinions in Advertisements

Many companies include both facts and opinions in their advertisements. Since advertisements are easy for students to access at home, they are an excellent source for students to use in their search for facts and opinions. Photocopy and distribute the *Facts and Opinions in Advertisements Reproducible*. Ask students to take the reproducible home and complete it using reading materials they have in their homes.

Fact and Opinion Center Activity

Label a sentence strip or index card "Fact", and label another "Opinion." Write several facts and opinions on sentence strips and place in a center. Direct students to lay the sentence strips under the correct headings. You may choose to make this activity self-checking by writing the answer on the back of each sentence strip. Provide extra blank sentence strips for students to create their own sentences and answers. Ask students to leave their facts and opinions at the center for others to categorize.

