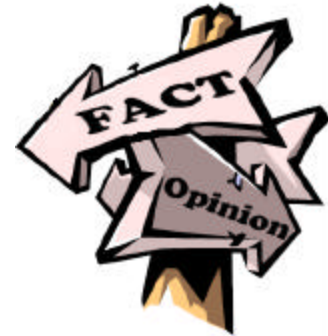


# Fact, Inference, or Opinion?

## Do you know the difference?

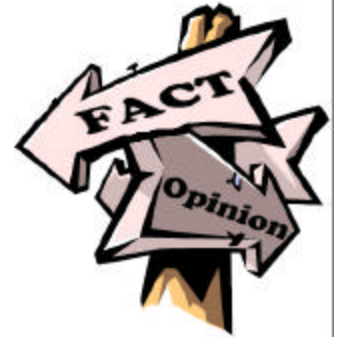


- ▷ A fact is a statement that can be proven true (or false) with some objective standard
  - ▷ The biology students are in Science Lab 3A.
    - ▷ This is a “provable” statement. It can be determined that there are people, who study biology, who are in a room that has scientific lab equipment for scientific laboratory work. The room number (3A or otherwise) can also be proven.
  
- ▷ An inference is a statement that appears to be true based on previous experiences. The greater the body of experience, the more an inference appears to be a fact.
  - ▷ Biology class meets in Science Lab 3A.
    - ▷ This is probably true in most cases—the class is scheduled to meet in that room, and class is likely held there. There may also be occasions when the class is held outdoors or at another location.
  
  - ▷ The school day begins at 8:00 a.m.
    - ▷ This inference seems to be a fact, but it is certainly possible that bad weather that could cause school to begin later. This is much like the above statement.
  
  - ▷ The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.
    - ▷ This certainly seems to be a fact. No one anticipates that the rotation of the earth will change drastically overnight, but because it is written in a tense that implies both present conditions as well as future conditions, it could also be considered an inference.
  
- ▷ An opinion is a statement that a person believes to be true but it cannot be measured against an objective standard
  - ▷ Science Lab 3A is too small for the biology class.
  - ▷ Science Lab 3A is well equipped for biology classes.
    - ▷ The first statement is dependent on a number of factors, and may even enlist agreement from many different sources, but there is no “standard” for the appropriate size of a science lab.
    - ▷ The second statement is dependent on what the biology class does in the lab. Their work may be limited by the equipment, but because they have the materials they need for their work, someone might mistakenly believe the lab has sufficient equipment and materials.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Fact, Inference, or Opinion Quiz

Read each statement, determine whether it is a fact or an opinion. Indicate your responses by writing



**F** if it is a fact      **I** if it is an inference      **O** if it is an opinion

1. \_\_\_\_\_ July 4 celebrates American Independence Day.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Lopez is a good music teacher.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The boiling point for water is 212° F or 100°C.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Skateboarding is a dangerous sport for people who do not wear protective knee and wrist guards.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Puppies are cuter than kittens.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Biology lab meets in Room 2B on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Michael's Social Studies notebook is in his backpack.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Kirsten is wearing a blue sweater today.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Independence Day is the most important American holiday.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The English test we took on Tuesday was very difficult.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ It's too cold in this classroom.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ There are too many science books in the Elementary Media Center.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ The dismissal bell rings at 2:35 p.m.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Wilson is the Elementary Media Specialist.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ My birthday is June 24.