

2. FACT OR OPINION?



▶ OUTCOME:

Learn to tell facts from opinions as a way to fight misinformation.

▶ MATERIALS:

Fact and Opinion statements (See Tool below), beach ball, permanent marker.

▶ BE PREPARED:

Write 'Fact' and 'Opinion' all over the ball.

WHAT HAPPENS:

Let participants know that you will give out 2 statements and they should try and understand which statement is true and which one is opinion:

'Cats have fur and can purr.' – 'I believe that cats make the best pets.'

Let the group tell you what they think. How can they tell that the second statement is something that is just your opinion?

Some statements are a fact, which means they can be proven true or false, while others are an opinion, meaning that we might agree or disagree with them, but we cannot prove or disprove them; they are a person's or a group's belief, thought or feeling.

Play the following game with the ball to bring home the idea:

1. Participants form a circle. One girl stands in the centre and holds the ball.
2. Give out one of the statements. She listens to it and has to identify it as Fact or Opinion.
3. Then she calls out the name of another participant and throws the ball up in the air. The girl whose name has been called has to run in the middle and catch the ball before it falls to the ground.
4. Read out one more statement.
5. Continue until everyone has had a go.



DISCUSS with the group:

Sometimes, we may see online videos, news or pictures that convey messages by other people.

- Why is it important to tell which of these messages are facts and which are their opinions?
- What are some things that make fact and opinion different?

Although hearing or reading other people's opinions is important and can also be useful to helping you make up your mind, it's important to understand that it is opinion!

Being able to distinguish between fact and opinion develops our critical and analytical skills. Whether on the news, in advertising, or a history book, opinions can be used to mislead us.

Telling the difference is important to avoid being manipulated. We can then learn new things that are true and form our own opinions. It can be difficult sometimes to tell between the two, but taking a closer look at the language used is a good indicator (See below).

Play again but now each time a girl catches the ball, she looks which word – Fact or Opinion – is under (or closest to) her right thumb and has to come up with that type of a statement. Players are invited to identify if the statement was correct or not.

2. FACT OR OPINION? (CONTINUED)



SEARCH RESULTS

Signal words for Fact	Signal words for Opinion
Numbers	Believe, think, feel
Names	Best, worst
Evidence	Favorite
Dates	Probably
Times	Point of view

TOOL ★

Fact and opinion statements

Fact	Opinion
The sun is hot	Broccoli is yummy
The earth is round	I think tomorrow will be sunny
Sunday is the day before Monday	My favorite season is the summer
5 is a bigger number than 3	I believe that elephants are dangerous
The sea is made of water	Roses smell nicer than any other flower
Ice cream is cold	Math is the hardest subject
Today is ... (example: Monday)	Pizza is delicious
Lollipops are sweet	Dogs and cats cannot be friends