



Facts and Opinions Activity

Created by: Jenifer Haley	Time Required: One 45 minute period
Subject: Language Arts	Grade Level: 5 th +

Overview	Students will practice critical thinking skills by choosing whether statements are fact or opinion.
Goal(s) & Objective(s)	Students will determine whether statements made by a person are fact or opinion. Students will choose fact and opinion statements from a video or text. Students will determine whether the statements their classmates chose represent fact or opinion.
Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Computers with Internet access. 2. Copies of Rangeland Facts and Opinions explanation sheet, copies of worksheets 1 and 2 (worksheet 1 available online)
Teaching Activities: <i>Instructional Approaches/Strategies</i>	<p>Introduction: Explain to students that fact and opinion statements can be mixed in the same text or video. This is not good or bad, but it is important to know the difference in order to figure out the author’s or speaker’s purpose.</p> <p>Procedures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have students read aloud the Facts and Opinions handout. 2. Show students the video clip at http://www.lifeontherange.org/range-stories/eastern-idaho-grazing-association.asp or have them view the clip on their computers. 3. Have students decide whether the statements on the worksheet are fact or opinion, or go to http://www.quia.com/quiz/3615365.html 4. (Possibly the next class session) Divide students into teams or groups of three. Have students listen to the video clip at http://www.lifeontherange.org/range-stories/bar-h-bar-guest-ranch.asp and listen for fact or opinion statements they can write down. Have them follow the instructions on the second worksheet by cutting the strips apart, checking them with you, passing them to a different team, and having the other team decide whether each statement is fact or opinion. Students then place their

	<p>categorized statements on the board for discussion.</p> <p>Closure</p> <p>1. Check student's categories and discuss any statements that are in the wrong category.</p>
Assessment:	<p>Have students redo the fact/opinion quiz online at http://www.quia.com/quiz/3615365.html</p>

Attachments:

Fact & Opinion Handout
 Fact & Opinion Worksheets # 1 & # 2

Extended Resources

<http://betterlesson.com/lesson/24795/fact-and-opinion-in-an-informational-text>

<http://www.worsleyschool.net/socialarts/factopinion/factopinion.html>

Facts and Opinions

Most of the things you read and hear from magazines, the internet, or informative TV include a mix of fact and opinion. This is not “good” or “bad”, but it is important that you can tell the difference when you apply what you read or hear to your life. **Facts** are statements that can be backed up with numbers or statistics. **Opinions** express how someone feels or what they believe. Sometimes opinions and facts are mixed in the same sentence, to make the author’s statement more forceful. Read the statement below which contains facts and opinions:

“Kimberly sheep rancher John Noh is having a great summer. A long, wet spring has produced plenty of feed for his sheep, and better yet, wool prices and lamb prices are at all-time highs.”

Where are the opinions in this statement? First, the description of the summer as “great” because it is an expression of feeling. Second, the statement of “better yet” because it is a belief that the high prices make things “better”.

Where are the facts in this statement? There are several! John Noh is a sheep rancher, it is summer, spring has been wet, and wool and lamb prices are high. These are all statements of fact which could be looked up and proven.

Go to the website <http://www.lifeontherange.org/> . Scroll over the link at the top that says “Range Stories”. Click on “Eastern Idaho Grazing Association”. Click play to view the video. While you are watching, think about which statements are fact and which are opinion. Then, follow your teacher’s instructions as to what to do next.

Name _____

Write “fact” or “opinion” in the blank next to each statement.

- _____ 1. In the shadow of the Blackfoot Mountains, sheep and cattle graze.
- _____ 2. This is a beautiful place in the world.
- _____ 3. Forty families of cattle and sheep ranchers collectively manage 90,000 acres of land
- _____ 4. Half of the grazing association’s land is leased from the Idaho Department of Lands.
- _____ 5. This is truthfully some of the best rangeland in Idaho and the west.
- _____ 6. A deferred rest-rotation grazing system allows rest during the growing season in all of the pastures.
- _____ 7. Cattle are grass eaters and sheep are browse eaters.
- _____ 8. Cows and campers didn’t always get along.
- _____ 9. Change is tough.
- _____ 10. Getting mad at fishermen and recreationists would not do the ranchers any good.
- _____ 11. New fences placed 200 feet above the river will keep most livestock away from the river, campers, and anglers.
- _____ 12. Ranchers will pay the costs of pumping water uphill for their livestock.
- _____ 13. Association ranchers are learning more about the needs of sage-grouse.
- _____ 14. The best thing that is happening with sage-grouse is a conversation between ranchers and biologists.
- _____ 15. Sage-grouse need huge expanses of sagebrush country.

Facts and Opinions Worksheet #2

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Find four “fact” statements and four “opinion” statements from the video at <http://www.lifeontherange.org/range-stories/bar-h-bar-guest-ranch.asp> with your partner. Write them on the provided sentence strips – do not label them! Check with your teacher to be sure they are fact or opinion. Without labeling them, trade with another team and have them sort the slips onto two sheets of paper labeled “fact” or “opinion”. Label one sheet of paper “fact” and another “opinion” to complete the same assignment with another team’s strips. Place your work in the correct column on the board.

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