

Fact/Opinion Checklist

Materials: Student Handout, red and green colored pencils (optional)

Procedure:

1. Have students go through the 17 statements. Some are proven facts, and others are opinion. Feel free to add any of your own- maybe there are some urban legends unique to your area.
2. After they've been working a while, you can tell them that 5 are Fact and 12 are Opinion.
3. Go over the answers for all 17 statements.
4. Color the Fact statements green and the Opinion red. Ask if anyone notices a pattern.
5. With student help and leading, fill in the 2 questions that follow.

Answers & Discussion Notes-

Fact	Opinion	
	x	1. The Great Wall of China is visible from space.
x		2. A 1901 light bulb is still burning today.
	x	3. Toilets flush opposite directions between the north. and south. hemis.
	x	4. The average person swallows eight spiders per year.
x		5. Earth's tides are caused by the moon's gravity pulling on earth.
	x	6. Sylvia Browne is a proven psychic.
	x	7. A giant asteroid collision is going to kill us all in 2017.
	x	8. The Apollo moon landing was a hoax.
	x	9. Numerous videos prove there are UFO's.
	x	10. The sky is blue because of the reflection off the ocean.
	x	11. The seasons occur because we get closer and further from the sun.
x		12. The moon rotates at the same rate it revolves (day is as long as its year).
	x	13. Eggs can be balanced on end on the equinox.
x		14. On May 3, 2000, 5 planets lined up perfectly.
	x	15. Such alignments can cause quakes, floods and split the planet
	x	16. My horoscope is accurate enough that I should live my life by it.

x		17. Three of the first five presidents of the United States died on July 4th.
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1. Compare the Fact statements with the Opinion statements. How do they sound different?

- a. Opinions-sensational, extreme
- b. Facts- provable, more calm, etc..

2. Why do we believe in things that cannot possibly be true?*

- a. To account for variations in observation
- b. Entertainment (boredom)
- c. To sound intelligent
- d. To be “on the inside”
- e. To express distrust in those in authority

[*source-http://www.xmission.com/~jwindley/why.html](http://www.xmission.com/~jwindley/why.html)