

Pick a Side: Fact or Opinion



Concept
Learning Skills



Length
5-10 Minutes

Inquiry Prompts

- What's the difference between fact and opinion?
- As a student, when do you need to use facts?
- As a student, when do you need to use opinions?

Instructions

Can students recognize the difference between fact and opinion? In this activity students will use their best judgement to determine if a statement is fact or opinion, and learn how to distinguish the difference.

- 1 On one side of the room, post a piece of paper with FACT written on it. On the opposite side, post an OPINION sign.
- 2 Explain to students that you're going to make a series of statements. Ask students to move to one side of the room if they think the statement is a fact, and the other side if they believe the statement is opinion.
- 3 Some sample statements (you can also use your own):
 - The first day of school is the best day of the year
 - Iron Man has cooler technology than Batman
 - Harry Potter was written by J.K. Rowling
 - Students have too much / too little homework
 - February is the shortest month of the year
 - Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system
- 4 Explain to students that facts can be proven, while opinions can be agreed or disagreed with.

Message for students: Knowing how to distinguish what's fact and opinion (or even untrue) online will help you with research papers, debates, and other school projects. How can knowing the difference between fact and opinion help you outside of school?

Materials Required

- Paper
- Pencils, colored pencils, or markers

Artifacts

None for this activity.