

Lesson Skill: Distinguishing fact from opinion

Strand Reading—nonfiction

SOL 6.6
7.6
8.6

Materials

- Copies of the Come To Camp Chippenstock! flier from the released 2004 Grade 8 SOL English Reading Test
- Various magazine and newspaper articles and ads
- Copies of the attached Fact and Opinion handout
- Highlighters in several colors

Lesson

1. Review with students the difference between fact and opinion and why it is important to know the difference. Point out that a statement is not necessarily all fact or all opinion, but that it can contain both facts and opinions. For example, the sentence, “Every student must take English, a fascinating, ninety-minute class that meets every other day.” contains three facts and one opinion.
2. Put students in pairs, and instruct them to read the *Come To Camp Chippenstock!* flier and decide whether each sentence contains fact, opinion, or both.
3. Hold a class discussion about each sentence.
4. Discuss with the class key elements that make a statement an opinion or a fact, and make a list of the elements. Point out adjectives as one indicator of opinions, if students do not mention it.
5. Distribute magazine and newspaper articles and ads, including some editorials and other opinion pieces, along with the attached Fact and Opinion handout. Have students read the texts and highlight facts and opinions in different colors. Then, have them list five examples of facts or opinions found and explain their reasons for categorizing each. Circulate to assist as necessary.
6. When students are finished, divide them into groups of three to five students, and have each student present the five facts and/or opinions from his/her article to the group.
7. Close the lesson by reminding students that distinguishing between fact and opinion is absolutely necessary in understanding what they read.



Fact and Opinion

1. Read your assigned text.
2. After you finish reading, go back and highlight facts in one color and opinions in another.
3. Choose five examples of facts and/or opinions. (If your text has both, be sure to include at least one of each.) Write them in the graphic organizer below, and explain how you know each is a fact or opinion.

Quote	Fact or Opinion	Why?