



FACTS

OPINIONS

Knowing how to distinguish between facts and opinions helps us to discern the information surrounding us. Here's how to tell facts and opinions:

FACTS

OPINIONS

Fact is a statement that can be proven to be true or false. It is backed up by evidence.

Opinion is an expression based on personal beliefs or views.

Eg: Dhoby Ghaut MRT station is one of the deepest station, with its deepest point at 28 metres below ground level.

Eg: Dhoby Ghaut MRT Station is the coolest MRT station because it is very deep.

This is a fact, which can be proven true or false by measuring the station's depth and comparing it with others.

A person may find the station "cool", but another might find it worrisome as the station's depth is very deep.

Dhoby Ghaut

"cool"

A fact can only have one true statement. It can be found in:

An opinion can have many different views. It can be found in:


Research studies


News reports


Encyclopaedias


Letter to editors (newspapers)


Facebook comments


Argumentative papers

Sometimes facts and opinions are used together to persuade readers into agreeing a point. Ask yourself these questions to check if a statement is a fact or an opinion:

- Can the statement be proven by evidences?
- Are the evidences from reliable sources?
- Where are the sources from? Are they credible?

References:

- Education (2011). 'Distinguishing between fact and opinion help'. Retrieved from <http://www.education.com/study-help/article/difference-fact-opinion/> on 8 April 2014.
- BBC Skillswise (2011). 'What are facts and opinions?' Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/factsheet/en06opin-11-f-what-is-fact-and-opinion> on 8 April 2014.
- Borough of Manhattan Community College (2014). 'Knowing the difference between facts and opinions'. Retrieved from <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/lrc/studyskills/factsandopinions.pdf> on 8 April 2014.



Now that you know facts from opinions, always share any information responsibly!

