

# Fact vs. Opinion vs. Informed Opinion: Worksheet A

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## Warmup Activity

We asked real journalists what their definition of the words “fact,” “opinion,” and “informed opinion” were. As a class, pick and choose from the responses below to come up with your own class definition, which you will use during this lesson and in your journalism career.

### Definition 1

**Source:** April Brown, PBS NewsHour Coordinating Producer

*Fact:* Something that can be proven true.

*Opinion:* Thoughts on a subject, not necessarily informed by fact, often informed by emotion.

*Informed Opinion:* Thoughts on a subject by someone who is familiar with facts, studies, trends, or firsthand experience.

### Definition 2

**Source:** Allison McCartney, PBS Newshour Extra Editor

*Fact:* A statement, whether it is quantitative or qualitative, that can be proven with evidence.

*Opinion:* A person’s worldview, applied to a specific situation.

*Informed Opinion:* A person’s worldview when applied to, or incorporating, facts.

### Definition 3

**Source:** Merriam-Webster Dictionary

*Fact:* A piece of information presented as having objective reality.

*Opinion:* A belief, judgment, or way of thinking about something.

*Informed Opinion:* Based on possession of information and a belief, judgment, or way of thinking about something.

# Fact vs. Opinion vs. Informed Opinion: Worksheet B

**Directions:** In the scenarios below decide which are “facts,” “opinions,” or “informed opinions” and then write down your answer in the space next to the sentence giving it an “F,” “O,” or “IO.”

## 1. Swimming

- Boo Radley is the greatest swimmer of all time.
- Michael Phelps is the greatest swimmer of all time because he has won more Olympic medals for swimming than anyone else in history.
- There is no way to really tell if Michael Phelps is the greatest swimmer in the history of the world, but he is definitely very good at swimming and the argument could be made that he was the greatest competitive swimmer in the world at one time.

## 2. Food in the United States

- I say that Thanksgiving dinner is the best food we have in the United States and a CNN poll also ranked it as the #1 food favorite in the states.
- Pizza is the best food, ever.
- There isn't a way to really find out for certain what the most popular food in the United States is.

## 3. Animals



- Mudpuppies spend their entire lives underwater and are distinguished as the only salamanders that make sound—a doglike barking.



- The hammerhead shark is the most dangerous shark ... just look at it.



- The bird of paradise is one of the best-known dancers in the animal kingdom. See the article [here](#).

## 4. Movies

- Twilight* is the best movie of all time.
- Gravity* is the highest-grossing film of all time.