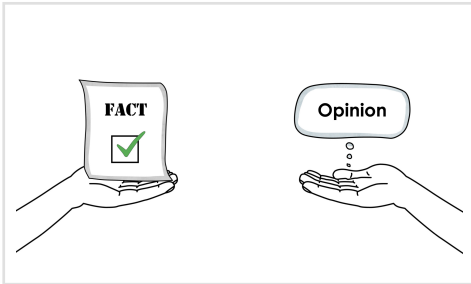


Lesson Plan

This lesson plan is designed to help you teach using a Common Craft video. Use the information below to introduce the video and then follow the video with discussion questions and other resources.



[Watch the Video](#)

ISTE Standard:

Knowledge Constructor, 3B

ACRL Info Literacy Frame:

Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

Facts and Opinions

Explained by Common Craft

It's more difficult than ever to evaluate the trustworthiness of information we see every day in the media and in education. It helps to be skilled in distinguishing fact from opinion. This video explains how to recognize the difference and use it to your advantage.

Learning Outcomes

- Distinguish facts from opinions
- Describe the value of being able to tell the difference between facts and opinions.
- Explain why it is important to verify facts.

Discussion Questions

Q #1

When someone is presenting an argument, what strategies do you use to differentiate the facts they are offering from their opinions?

Q #2

What problems can come from not being able to tell the difference between facts and opinions? Can you think of a real life example of this either in the media or in your everyday life?

Q3

What steps do you usually take to verify that a piece of information is true?

Knowledge Check Q&A

Q

Is this a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

According to American Cancer Society, "Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women. Each year, more people die of lung cancer than of colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined."

A: Fact. There is evidence (statistics) to support this information and it's verifiable from several reputable sources.

Q

Is this a fact or opinion? How can you tell?

Preventing lung cancer in the United States needs to be our top priority above any other public health concerns.

A: Opinion. This is a personal belief that cannot be proven with evidence. Other people may have other opinions about top priorities in the public health area.

Q

True or False: Facts can be trusted because they are based on evidence and therefore do not need to be verified.

A: False. A fact can still be true or false. The person who made the statement may be confused or misleading. That's why it's a good idea to verify facts using multiple credible sources.

Resources for Learning More

Pew Research Center

Drew Desilver, Q&A: Telling the difference between factual and opinion statements in the news, June 18, 2018

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/06/18/qa-telling-the-difference-between-factual-and-opinion-statements-in-the-news/>

Pew Research Center

Quiz: How well can you tell factual from opinion statements?

<https://www.pewresearch.org/quiz/news-statements-quiz/>

ISTE

Jennifer Snelling, Top 10 sites to help students check their facts, February 1, 2019

<https://www.iste.org/explore/Digital-and-media-literacy/Top-10-sites-to-help-students-check-their-facts>

FactCheck.org

Fact checking website

<https://www.factcheck.org/>

The Guardian

Lesson 7: Identifying the difference between fact and opinion, October 7, 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/newswise/2019/oct/07/lesson-7-identifying-the-difference-between-fact-and-opinion>