

Chapter 3

NAME _____

Lesson 1 Fact or Opinion?

People like to share the facts they know whenever they get the chance. Others like to share their opinions, whether anyone asks for them or not. There is a right and a wrong time to use facts and opinions.

fact *noun* something known to be true or real; something real; something that can be proven true

opinion *noun* a belief; a personal judgment

When your teacher asks a question in class, he or she is usually looking for an answer that is a fact.

Question: What is the main ingredient in paper?

Answer: wood

That is a fact.

Think about this question.

Question: Is recycling paper a good thing?



This question is looking for an opinion. Here is how some students answered the question. They stated their opinions, and then they used facts to support their opinions.

Answer: Yes. Recycling paper saves trees.

Answer: Yes, because the landfills are filling up with paper.

Read these sentences. Label the opinions with an **O**. Label the facts with an **F**.

_____ Recycling paper is the only sensible thing to do.

_____ Recycled paper is less expensive to produce than new paper.

_____ I prefer recycled paper to new paper.

Lesson 1 Fact or Opinion?

When writing, be careful when it comes to facts and opinions. Make sure you are writing facts most of the time. If you are writing opinions, make sure they were asked for. Also, make sure you support your opinions with facts.

Think of a subject about which you have an opinion. It might be recycling, school uniforms, or your favorite music. Write two opinions about the subject.

Opinion 1: _____

Opinion 2: _____

Now, write two facts about the same subject.

Fact 1: _____

Fact 2: _____

Finally, write an opinion and support it with a fact. If you need to, look back at page 102 to see how the students supported their opinions about recycling paper.
