

## **Distinguishing Fact and Opinion**

GRADE LEVEL/SUBJECT: 7-12

### **OVERVIEW:**

It is necessary in our day and age for a student to know what is a fact or an opinion; this is because they must be able to discern the value of what is being told them.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

Students will be able to pick up clues in the wordage of a sentence to determine if it is factual and be able to give reasons for their feelings. It should help students explain the difference between statements of hard fact as found on the front page of a newspaper from that of the editorial page.

### **RESOURCES/MATERIALS:**

None are needed except a generated list of facts and opinions that can be presented as a quiz in which the student can mark whether it is one or the other by marking it either with an "O" or an "F".

### **ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES:**

Make a list of short sentences pulled from the text, A variation of this would be to have the students compile a list of sentences pulled from the text and write them down to be handed in so the you can make a list from the students' lists. Tell the students what an opinion is and what a fact is. An opinion will involve a judgment about the worth or value of something, whereas a fact has evidence to prove it.

Explain that a fact as presented may be false, but it can be proved to be so. If judgments are based on faulty assumptions or facts that the resulting actions taken in response may be askew. Opinions will be deduced as involving an interpretation or explanations for something or some happening which may seem logical but may have legitimate variations of interpretation.