

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

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

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

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

Dhoby Ghaut

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


Research studies


News reports


Encyclopaedias

OPINIONS

Opinion is an expression based on personal beliefs or views.

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

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

"cool"

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


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-l1-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!

FACTS + OPINIONS