

# Fact and Opinion: Which is which? How can you tell the difference?

As students move from upper middle school to high school, they begin to acquire and to refine expository and persuasive writing skills. Students at this level are also expected to determine purpose in reading—reading for pleasure and entertainment, reading to gather information, and reading to analyze a writer's opinion on a subject. When students have a basic understanding of purpose, audience, and of the difference between statements of fact and statements of opinion, they have cleared the first hurdle in expository and persuasive writing and speaking.

Students will find the answers to each question in the "Far Traveler" book. Don't forget to use the introductory section and the K - 5 section as well!

## Directions:

Read each statement. Write the word FACT on the line if you can prove it OR disprove it. In other words, there is concrete evidence to verify the statement or to prove it false. Write the word OPINION on the line if the statement is a "belief" or a position statement. The underlined words are in the glossary! Part of the challenge is to learn new words! Practice your vocabulary expertise by playing "Word-O!"

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Wolves are carnivores, and red wolves prey mainly on mammals.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The two officially recognized species of wolves in North America are the red wolf and the gray wolf.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Top predators like red wolves should be reintroduced on all public lands in the Southeast that provide a large enough range to support a population.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Farmers should be permitted by law to shoot any red wolf that kills livestock.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A captive management program and a Species Survival Plan were necessary to save the red wolf from becoming extinct.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ One of the greatest problems with red wolf recovery is the potential for hybridizing with coyotes.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Wolves are often portrayed as villains and savage killers in legends and in children's stories.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Red wolves are shy and tend to avoid contact with people.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Wolves are social animals with a pack structure based on a dominance hierarchy.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Stories portraying wolves in a negative way are harmful to children.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Red wolf pups are born in the spring and are cared for by both parents.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Red wolves are generally smaller than gray wolves and larger than coyotes.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Wolf hunting should be legal in areas where wolves are not listed as endangered or threatened.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Wolves do not generally make successful pets because wolves are wild, not domestic, animals.