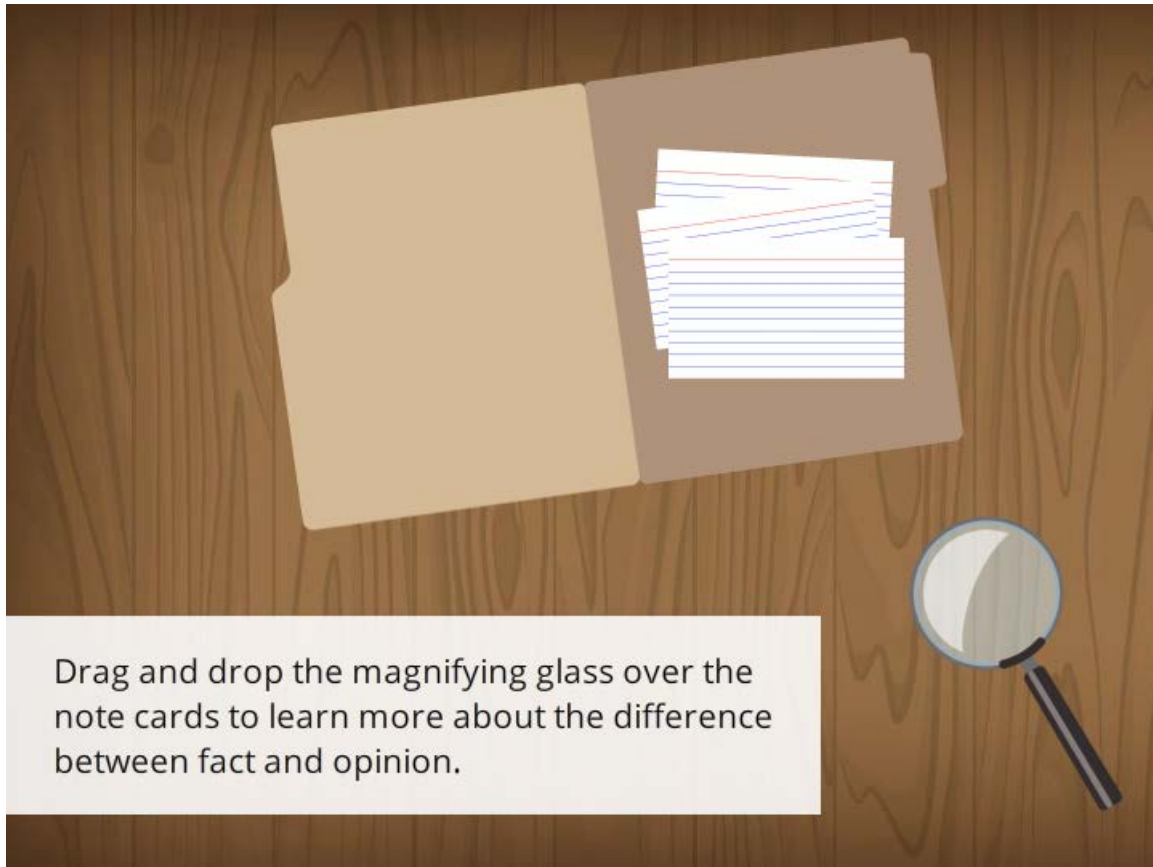


Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

Folder 1: Information About Facts Versus Opinions

An illustration of a wooden folder with a magnifying glass and a text box. The folder is open, showing a stack of lined paper. A magnifying glass is positioned to the right of the folder. A white text box is overlaid on the bottom left of the folder.

Drag and drop the magnifying glass over the note cards to learn more about the difference between fact and opinion.

Drag and drop the magnifying glass over the note cards to learn more about the difference between fact and opinion.

Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

When Opinions Are Not Obvious

When Opinions Are Not Obvious

①

Opinions are subjective statements that cannot be proven true, whereas facts are statements that *can* be proven true through objective evidence. Most of the time, it is easy to differentiate between opinions and facts. For example, if someone says, "I think football is fun," you know right away that the statement is an opinion. However, the statement "Soccer is harder than football because you can't use your hands" may seem like a fact, but it is actually an opinion because you cannot prove the statement to be true. How would you measure the difficulty of a sport? What makes a sport difficult for one person might make it easy for another person. Unless everyone—or nearly everyone—can agree on an objective measurement of difficulty, then any statement about the difficulty of a sport can only be considered an opinion.

Next Card

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Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

When Facts Are Subjective

When Facts Are Subjective

②

Sometimes facts can actually be subjective, especially when they are based on understandings that vary among different groups of people. For example, in the United States, young school children are taught there are seven continents on planet Earth. In other countries, school children are taught that there are four continents, and yet others are taught that there are five or six continents. The number of continents depends on how one subjectively defines a land mass as a continent. Click the thumbnail to view an interactive map that illustrates different ways that people count the number of continents.



[Previous Card](#)

[Next Card](#)

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Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

When Facts Change Over Time

When Facts Change Over Time ③

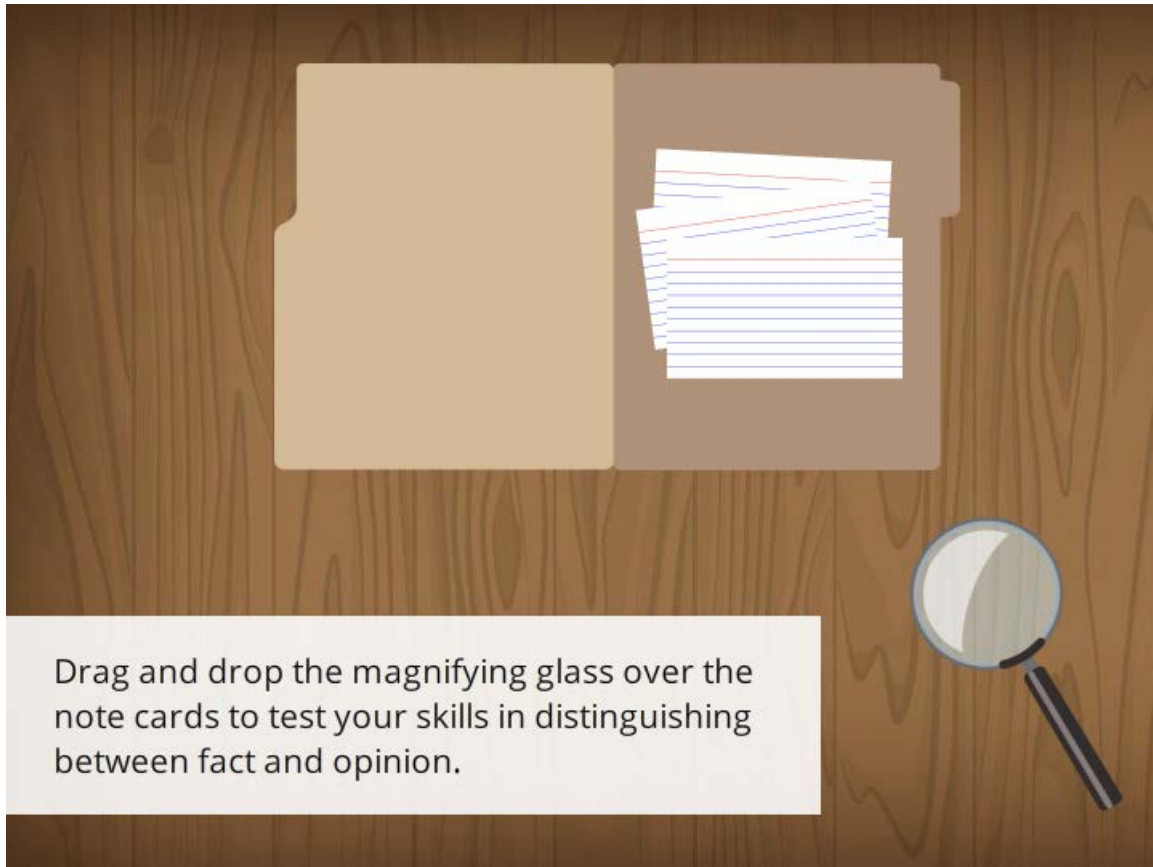
The statements that are considered facts today may evolve to be opinions in the future. For example, more than a hundred years ago, the word *leg* was considered improper and offensive. Even though people use this word today without thinking twice about it, in the past *leg* was considered so vulgar that even the legs holding up a piano had to be covered up with "skirts." Keep in mind that widely-accepted facts often evolve with new understandings and attitudes. The astronomer Copernicus disputed a well-known fact in his time that the sun revolves around the Earth. If that outdated fact seems laughable to you, consider how astronomers used to count Pluto as the ninth planet until numerous similar dwarf planets were discovered. Today they are still divided as to how many planets the solar system really has.

[Previous Card](#) [Close Folder](#)

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Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

Folder 2: Test Your Skills



Drag and drop the magnifying glass over the note cards to test your skills in distinguishing between fact and opinion.

Module 9: Nonfiction

Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

Instructions

Fact or Opinion?

How well you can you distinguish between facts and opinions? Take a moment to test your skills. For each of the following six note cards, read the statement and select **Fact** if it is a fact or **Opinion** if it is an opinion. For the purpose of this interactivity, assume that all the statements are true. In other words, you will not see any false facts, such as "horses have eight limbs." However, consider whether the statements have general consensus and can be measured objectively (facts) or resemble thesis statements that can be challenged (opinions).

Click **NEXT** to begin.

Next

How well you can you distinguish between facts and opinions? Take a moment to test your skills. For each of the following six note cards, read the statement and select **Fact** if it is a fact or **Opinion** if it is an opinion. For the purpose of this interactivity, assume that all the statements are true. In other words, you will not see any false facts, such as "horses have eight limbs." However, consider whether the statements have general consensus and can be measured objectively (facts) or resemble thesis statements that can be challenged (opinions).

Click **NEXT** to begin.

Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

Statement 2

Fact or Opinion?

2

Is the following statement a fact or opinion? Select your answer below, and then click ***SUBMIT*** to check your response.

Oranges taste better than lemons.

FactOpinion

Is the following statement a fact or opinion? Select your answer below, and then click ***SUBMIT*** to check your response.

Oranges taste better than lemons.

Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

Statement 6

Fact or Opinion?⑥

Is the following statement a fact or opinion? Select your answer below, and then click ***SUBMIT*** to check your response.

"Irregardless" is not a real word.

FactOpinion

Is the following statement a fact or opinion? Select your answer below, and then click ***SUBMIT*** to check your response.

"Irregardless" is not a real word.

Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 4 Content: Fact Versus Opinion

Answer Key

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Thomas Jefferson was America's greatest president. | <p style="text-align: center;">Opinion</p> <p>This is an opinion because while most people agree Jefferson was a great president, many can argue that other presidents have been better.</p> |
| 2. Oranges taste better than lemons. | <p style="text-align: center;">Opinion</p> <p>This is an opinion because some people can argue that lemons actually taste better. The statement is subjective and cannot be measured objectively.</p> |
| 3. A triangle has three sides. | <p style="text-align: center;">Fact</p> <p>This is an indisputable fact based on the definition of a triangle.</p> |
| 4. Lemons have a sour flavor. | <p style="text-align: center;">Fact</p> <p>This is a fact because it can be measured objectively by identifying the molecules in a lemon that trigger a sour taste on human taste buds.</p> |
| 5. Chocolate is toxic to dogs. | <p style="text-align: center;">Fact</p> <p>This is a fact because it can be shown scientifically the toxic effects that chocolate has on a dog's body, even though some dogs may not show immediate symptoms.</p> |
| 6. "Irregardless" is not a real word. | <p style="text-align: center;">Opinion</p> <p>This is an opinion because it can be challenged with objective evidence. It may not be proper usage, but you can locate its entry in dictionaries or cite usage of the word dating back several decades.</p> |