Fact or Opinion? - Tutor Hints

A **fact** is a statement that can be verified. It can be proven to be true or false through objective evidence.

An **opinion** is a statement that expresses a feeling, an attitude, a value judgment, or a belief. It is a statement that is neither true nor false. Or it may feel true for some, but false for others.

A FACT:
- can be proven true or false through objective evidence.
- relies on denotative language.
- frequently uses measurable or verifiable numbers, statistics, dates and measurements.

AN OPINION:
- cannot be presently verified.
- relies on connotative language.
- can mean different things to different people.
- uses value judgment words and comparisons such as "best," "most," etc…

Practice: Fact or Opinion or Both?
1. I have a husband and two children.
2. Pit bulls are the most dangerous dogs alive.
3. Ostriches do not hide their head in the sand.
4. There is nothing like an ice-cold bottle of Coke to satisfy a thirst!
5. It is time for educators to assume more responsibility for schools' unhealthy lunch menus.
6. The government should increase spending for preventing unwanted pregnancy; more than one million teenagers become pregnant every year.
7. Rob said that the book *Angels and Demons* is better than *The Da Vinci Code*.
8. New York City is not the capital of New York State.

Other tips on fact and opinion:
- Opinions may sometimes look like facts because of professional or technical-sounding words: *State funded and accredited schools are far superior to private institutions.*
- A false fact is still a fact: *A majority of experts agree that smoking daily can improve your health.*
- *Predictions* are opinions because they cannot be verified *right now. By the year 2025, Americans will have socialized medicine.*
- Value (or judgment) words often represent opinions: *Antonio Banderas is the <u>most</u> handsome actor in the movie <u>Interview with the Vampire</u>.*
- The word "should" usually signals an opinion:
  Government regulation of our private lives should be halted immediately.

Examples of Value Words (these words cannot be verified of measured):

best	great	beautiful	worst	terrible
bad	should	must	good	strangest
disgusting	wonderful	pretty	most	lovely

Fact and Opinion:

1. F   5. *O*

2. *O*   6. F&*O*

3. F   7. F

4. *O*   8. F