

Fact or Opinion?

Name _____

The exercise on this page will help you to recognize facts and distinguish them from opinions. First: some definitions. A statement of fact expresses only what actually happened, or what could be proven by objective data. A statement of opinion expresses an attitude toward something – it makes a judgment, view, or conclusion, or gives an opinion that cannot be proven true or false.

Study the following groups of statements. In each case, identify the underlined portion as a fact or an opinion. Put an "F" for fact and a "O" for opinion in the space provided.

_____ 1. More and more women are deciding to give birth to their children at home. A hospital, after all, is not the best place for a baby to be born.

_____ 2. More and more women are deciding to give birth to their children at home. A hospital, after all, is not the best place for a baby to be born.

_____ 3. Wendy James, author of *Claws*, the best-written novel of the disaster genre, will speak at tonight's "How I Became An Author"

_____ 4. Davey Sallison, satirical columnist for the *Lake County Leader*, will give a rebuttal entitled "What Is An Author?"

_____ 5. The teachers' strike, now into its seventh week, has caused untold hardships on the teachers, their families, and the rest of the winter-weary town.

_____ 6. Amy Peterson, a talented stock car racer, was the least nervous driver at last weekend's race.

_____ 7. Once the cavity reaches the dentin (the hard, dense, bone-like material that composes the principal mass of the tooth), it must be cleaned and filled. Some researchers, however, are beginning to question whether periodic cleaning and checking of the enamel (the calcareous substance that forms a thin layer capping the teeth) plays a significant role in preventing tooth decay.

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