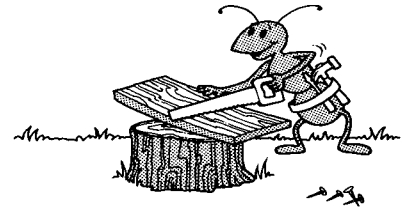


Facts and Opinions

An **opinion** tells how someone thinks or feels. A **fact** can be proven true.

An opinion tells how someone thinks or feels. It is different from a fact. A fact can be checked or proven true.



Example: (fact) A cat is a popular house pet.
(opinion) A cat is a better pet than a dog.

Certain words can give a clue that an opinion is being stated. Some such words are: **best, worst, should, should not, or I think.**

Which of the following statements are facts? Which are opinions? Write **F** before the facts. Write **O** before the opinions.

- ___ 1. Carpenter ants build their homes in wood.
- ___ 2. Roses are prettier than marigolds.
- ___ 3. Everyone should learn to swim.
- ___ 4. Ladybug beetles eat insects which have been pests to man.
- ___ 5. Canada is the second largest country in the world.

Choose one of the topics below. Write four facts about it. Then write four opinions.

Topics: homework, school lunches, pollution, watching TV, bicycle safety

Topic: _____

Facts

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Opinions

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Writers often try to persuade other people to share their opinions. One way they do this is to use strong reasons to back up their ideas.

Write two reasons to support this opinion: Young people should do their best in school.



Write a paragraph that gives your opinion about your favorite lunch food. Begin with a topic sentence that states your opinion. Try to convince your readers, the cafeteria workers, to make your favorite food by giving good reasons.

The Fountain of Youth

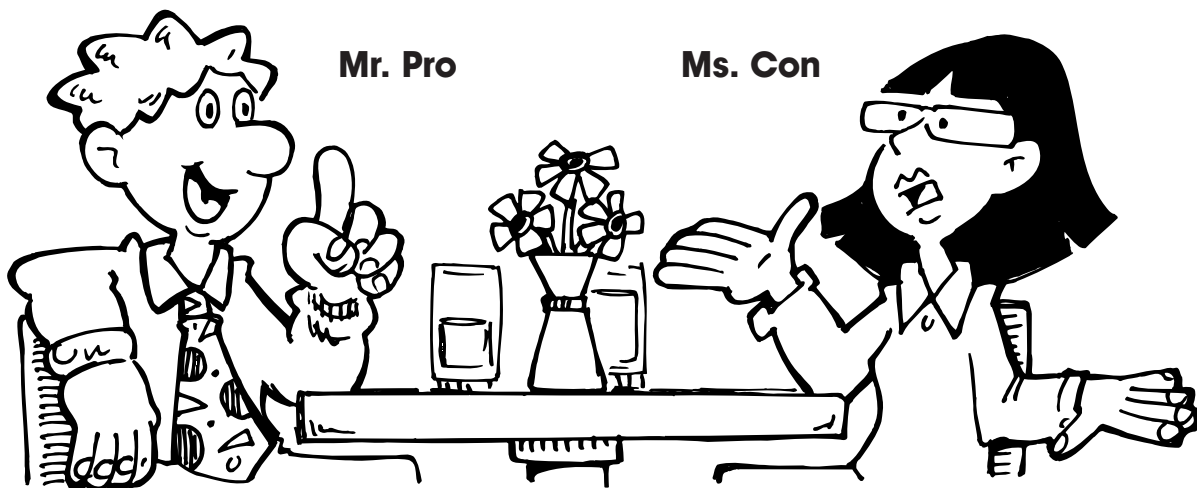
One evening over dinner, Mr. Pro and Ms. Con began discussing what it would be like if Ponce de Leon had actually discovered the legendary Fountain of Youth when he explored the New World in 1513.

"Life is too short," declared Mr. Pro. "It would be great if we could live forever. Everyone would always be young and healthy. We would have time to see everything, do everything, and learn everything. People would be so much happier."

"I'm not so sure about that," said Ms. Con. "If no one died and more people were born, wouldn't Earth become very crowded? After a time, people would become bored, living forever. Besides, somebody or some country might try to control the Fountain of Youth, and that would surely cause problems."

Mr. Pro thought it would be great if people lived forever, but Ms. Con had her doubts. Read the statements below. If it is from Mr. Pro's point of view, write P in the blank. Write C if the statement is from Ms. Con's point of view.

1. ___ People and countries might go to war to control the Fountain of Youth.
2. ___ No one wants to die.
3. ___ People would have time to see everything, learn everything, and do everything.
4. ___ Earth would soon become overpopulated.
5. ___ People would eventually become bored.
6. ___ People would be happier.



Give one reason why you do or don't think it would be great if someone discovered the Fountain of Youth.

My Old Kentucky Home

Write F for fact or O for opinion.

1. ____ About 300 million years ago, much of Kentucky was swampland.
2. ____ When the swamps eventually dried out, they left a layer of organic matter that became coal.
3. ____ The first inhabitants of Kentucky were migrating hunters of mammoths and mastodons.
4. ____ Hunting a mastodon must have been a scary experience.
5. ____ Kentucky is nicknamed the Bluegrass State.
6. ____ Everyone enjoys watching the Kentucky Derby.
7. ____ Kentucky's state tree is the coffee tree, but coffee doesn't really grow on it.
8. ____ Cumberland Falls, Kentucky is the only place in America where you can see a "moonbow."
9. ____ A moonbow occurs on clear nights when the moon is full.
10. ____ A moonbow is prettier than a rainbow.
11. ____ "The Moonbow State" would be a better nickname for Kentucky.
12. ____ Much of the country's gold is stored at Fort Knox, Kentucky.
13. ____ Kentucky's oldest college, in Lexington, is called Transylvania.
14. ____ Two cities in Kentucky have very strange names: Monkey's Eyebrow and Butcher's Hollow.
15. ____ The best President of the U.S., Abe Lincoln, was born in Kentucky.
16. ____ The state song, "My Old Kentucky Home," is the best song written by Stephen Foster.

