

Fact, Opinion, Belief, and Prejudice

Our understanding of the world can be sorted into four different categories: Facts, opinions, beliefs and prejudices.

Factual statements	Opinion statements
A fact is a statement that can be proven true or false	An opinion is a statement that cannot be conclusively proven true or false
Facts are right or wrong based on whether they correspond to reality	Opinions are strong or weak depending on how well supported they are by the available evidence
Facts state what is	Opinions interpret what is

A belief is a conviction based on cultural or personal faith, morality, or values. Statements such as "Capital punishment is legalized murder" are often called "opinions" because they express viewpoints, but they are not based on facts or other evidence. They cannot be disproved or even contested in a rational or logical manner. When making arguments in this class, it is best to avoid belief statements because they often cannot be rationally argued.

A prejudice is a very weak opinion formed or without consideration of the factual evidence or strongly formed opinions on a subject. Prejudice often arises from our background experience and represents opinions we hold without consideration of the evidence. Prejudice must be avoided in writing in this class.

(Adapted from materials found from dictionary.com, St. Joseph's College and the Colorado State university)

Classify the following statements as fact or opinion. Be prepared to explain why you classified them as you did.

1. Mr. Haydock was born on January 1, 1776.
2. Neil Armstrong landed on the moon on July 20, 1969.
3. Because of its vast possibilities, we should continue to explore space.
4. Barak Obama was born in the United States
5. George Washington was a great president
6. The US economy grew over the last quarter
7. The government should pay the cost of university education.

8. Vaccines reduce the risk of COVID.
9. The Giants currently lead the National League Western Division
10. The Giants are the best team in baseball

Use this [CDC webpage on added sugars](#) to complete the following:

Classify the following as strong or weak opinions based on the evidence contained on the page listed above. Rate each statement on a scale of 10 (really strong) to 1 (a prejudice that ignores the available evidence). Briefly explain why you classified each opinion as you did.

11. Everyone should reduce their sugar intake.
12. People who say we should eat less sugar are dumb.
13. Some people in the United States eat too much sugar
14. Sugar never hurt anyone
15. Sugar kills!