

# 5

## Pre-Task Activity #5: Issues scavenger hunt – Fact or Opinion?

### Purpose

Students will further develop their understanding of an issue as a concept by learning the difference between fact and opinion. Students examine various issues in their community by reading articles found in newspapers, or by listening to candidates presenting their platforms.

### Strand and Expectations

Canada and World Connections

### Overall Expectations

Students will:

- use a variety of resources and tools to gather and analyse information about government processes, the rights of groups and individuals, and the responsibilities of Citizenship in Canada, including participation in the electoral process (e.g., students analyse issues in the community).

### Specific Expectations

Students will:

- use primary and secondary sources to locate information about structure and functions of government (e.g. candidate testimonials and newspaper articles)
- research and report on concrete examples of how the municipal government works to meet the needs of our communities.

**Time Required: Two 40 min periods**

### Resources

Local newspapers:

Metro News	24 Hours	Toronto Star
Beach Metro Community	Toronto Community News	Beach-Riverdale Mirror News

Scholastic Printables

<http://printables.scholastic.com/printables/detail/?id=26915>

## Teaching/Learning Strategies

1. In order to introduce the concept of a fact and an opinion, teachers may give a brief definition of each. After providing students with a brief definition, explain to students that they will play a quick game of “Two Corners.” Hang signs with the words Fact and Opinion in two corners/sides of the room. Using the list provided read out loud to the class the various statements of facts and opinions. After each statement is read aloud students must decide whether each sentence is a fact or an opinion by walking over to the either corner/side of the room.

Fact/Opinion statements:

- Steve Nash is the greatest Canadian basketball player who ever lived
- The capital of Canada is Ottawa
- Toronto is the greatest city in the world
- Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world
- There are 24 hours in a day
- Reading is a fun way to learn

Allow 1-2 minutes for students to discuss why that particular statement is either a fact or an opinion. Have one student from each group explain why they chose that side/corner.

2. Students search through a local newspaper to find an article that addresses a local community issue.
3. Teachers may ask students to answer the 5 W's (who, what, where, when, why) in order to help them determine the difference between a fact and an opinion.
4. Using the information retrieved from an article found in a newspaper, students determine what information should be placed in the fact column and what information should be placed in the opinion column.
5. If a computer is available, teachers and students could watch a commercial while students point out examples of facts and opinions in the media.

## Assessment

- Formative assessment: informal observation of students during “Two Corners” game
- For homework have students watch at least two commercials. Ask them to record two facts and two opinions from each commercial.

## Accommodations

- Students may be required to analyse only one commercial for homework.
- Provide students with a chart showing statements from “Two Corners” game organized in a T-chart as either a fact or opinion.
- Show students a commercial. Write out various statements made in the advertisement and have students decide whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

## Extensions

- Teachers may also use several printables available through the Scholastic Printables website. “Climbing Blindly”, and “From Pole to Pole”, are two reading activities that require students to identifying statements that are facts and opinions.
- Invite a local councillor member to visit the class and discuss local issues in the community