




Fact & Opinion • Up for Debate • 1

To tell fact from opinion as you read, remember:

- A **fact** is a statement that can be proved to be true.
- An **opinion** is a statement of someone's personal belief or feeling.
- **Signal words**, such as *believe*, *think*, *feel*, and *unfair* help you recognize an opinion.

Facts & Opinion Text Marks

-  Circle a **fact**.
-  Underline an **opinion**.
-  Box the **signal word**.

Read "Should Students Go to School Year-Round?"
Identify facts and opinions. Then mark the text.




Should Students Go to School Year-Round?

In Germany and Japan, students go to school year-round. In the United States, students have two or more month's vacation. Should American students to be in class 12 months a year?

Some experts believe that summer vacation hurts education. They say students forget what they have learned. However, many parents think that kids need a break from school. Who do you think is right?

Mark the Text

Identify facts and opinions.

-  Circle two facts.
-  Underline two opinions.
-  Box the signal words.

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Read "Should Girls Play on Boys' Sports Teams?"
Identify facts and opinions. Then mark the text.

Should Girls Play On Boys' Sports Teams?

In 1972, Congress passed a law called Title IX. It states that girls and boys should have equal opportunities in school. The law changed school sports forever. The number of girls playing high school sports grew from 30,000 in 1972 to over 170,000 today. Many girls now want to play on boys' sports teams.

Some people think that a girl playing on a boys' team is wrong. They say girls are weaker and could get hurt. They argue that it's not fair to the boys on the teams. Other people believe that girls have as much right to play as boys. If a girl is good enough to make a team, she should be able to play on it. There are strong opinions on both sides of the issue.



Mark the Text

Identify facts and opinions.

- Circle two facts.
- Underline two opinions.
- Box the signal words.

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Read "Should Cell Phones Be Allowed in School?"
Identify facts and opinions. Then mark the text.



Should Cell Phones Be Allowed in School?

A recent survey shows that 75 percent of teens between ages 12 and 17 have their own cell phones. They carry them everywhere, including to school. That has caused a big debate. Kids use their cell phones to talk, to text, and to take pictures. However, problems come up when kids have cell phones in schools. Over two-thirds of high schools have banned cell phones.

Many teachers believe that cell phones interfere with learning. Kids might check their phones for text messages. A call can disrupt a class. Many parents feel their kids should carry cell phones. They like being able to get in touch with their kids. They think the phones keep their kids safe.

What do you think? Should kids have cell phones in school?

Mark the Text

Identify facts and opinions.

- Circle two facts.
- Underline two opinions.
- Box the signal words.