



Distinguishing facts from opinion



What are facts?

- things that can be proved by evidence
- the evidence can be collected from studies, observations or research

What are opinions?

- personal views or thoughts
- not always based on reliable evidence

Let's look closer!

Dear Editor,

(i) *The city's weather bureau collects its evidence from studies and observations, so it most likely is reliable.*

I am writing to express my concern about the impact of the extreme weather that is happening more frequently. According to the city's weather bureau, this is caused by the rise in greenhouse gas emissions. I am certain that vehicles like cars are to be blamed for much of the emissions.

The government should discourage people from driving and encourage them to use public transportation instead ...

(ii) *I am certain shows what follows is the writer's opinion.*

Fact / Opinion / Not Given

e.g. Read the following statements about the text. Are the statements a fact (F) or an opinion (O), or is the information not given (NG)? Blacken ONE circle only.

- | | F | O | NG |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) Greenhouse gases can cause more extreme weather. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) The rise in greenhouse gas emissions is caused by vehicles. | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) The government wants people to drive less. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| (iii) The suggestion of driving less comes from the writer, not the government. | | | |

In a TV interview, James Smith, a leading climate scientist at NASA, announced that sea ice cover in the Arctic is fast disappearing. This would destroy the polar bear's natural habitat. Most people believe that in around 70 years from now, people may not have the opportunity to see polar bears.

We have a responsibility to protect the environment, so that polar bears can survive.

(ii) *believe (v.) shows people's views instead of results from actual research*

Fact / Opinion / Not Given

e.g. Read the following statements about the text. Are the statements a fact (F) or an opinion (O), or is the information not given (NG)? Blacken ONE circle only.

- | | F | O | NG |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (i) The text does not mention how fast NASA expects Arctic sea ice to melt. | | | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| (i) Arctic sea ice is melting faster than NASA has expected. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| (ii) Polar bears would disappear by the end of the 21 st century. | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) <i>people may not have the opportunity to see polar bears = 'polar bears would disappear'</i> | | | |

Let's practise!

Dear Joe,

How are you? Have you heard that more and more trees are being cut down in the Amazon rainforest? I read in a newspaper article that without these trees, global temperature will climb higher and there could be more disasters like seaside flooding. That's why my school is holding a tree planting event next Saturday. We'll plant trees in Clear Water Bay Country Park. I believe this event can both help protect the environment and make people more aware of what's happening in the Amazon. Would you like to join me?

Love,

Ben

① Read the following statements about the text. Are the statements a fact (**F**) or an opinion (**O**), or is the information not given (**NG**)? Blacken ONE circle only.

- | | F | O | NG |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) People can help protect nature by planting trees. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) Fewer trees in the Amazon can lead to more floods. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) Planting trees can protect the habitat of wild animals. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Dear Ben,

Thank you for inviting me to join your school's tree planting event. I would love to go with you!

I've heard about deforestation in the Amazon rainforest too. A leading scientist said that if this continues, many wild animals will lose their habitat. I'm sure some of these animal species will go extinct.

Let's hope this tree planting event can be one of the steps we need to take to heal the environment.

Best,

Joe

② Read the following statements about the text. Are the statements a fact (**F**) or an opinion (**O**), or is the information not given (**NG**)? Blacken ONE circle only.

- | | F | O | NG |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Some animals in the Amazon will disappear for good. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (ii) People are cutting down trees in the Amazon to build farms. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| (iii) There are less space in the Amazon for animals to live in. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |