

## Fact and Opinion Race

**Introduction:** As in other grade levels, students in the third grade need practice in differentiating between fact and opinion. This race will give students some needed practice and provide them with time to be active.

**Grade Level and Subject:** 3rd Grade Reading and P.E.

**TEKS:** Reading – 9J  
P.E. – 1B, 1C, 3A, 3B, 7A

**Materials:** Ten–12 cones, half of them having the word “fact” written on them and the other half of the cones having the word “opinion” written on them (the words can be written on paper and taped to the cones if you prefer); chalk; short fact and opinion statements

**Activity:** This activity should happen once students have had some practice with fact and opinion in the classroom.

The teacher will divide students into 5-6 teams, with each team having the same number of students. For every team, the teacher should have two cones — one labeled fact and the other opinion.

On the day of the activity, the teacher will mark the starting line for the race with chalk. The line should be approximately 20-30 feet long to give students plenty of room. The teacher should then draw another chalk line approximately 50 feet away from the starting line. This will be the line on which the cones are placed.

The teams should line up, one student behind the other, until the 5-6 teams each have a representative on the starting line and the other team members are standing directly behind the starting member. There should be at least 2-3 feet between the teams. The cones will be directly across from each team. The two cones for each team should be placed side-by-side on the chalk line, words facing the students, so that the students have easy access to them.

The teacher will begin by reading a brief portion of a book, newspaper, or advertisement in which either a fact or opinion can be found. The first member of each team should remain on the starting line until the teacher says “go.” The first member of each team will then run to the cones, choose the correct cone (based on whether the students think the teacher read a fact or an opinion), and race back to the starting line. After returning to the starting line, each student in the race will hold the cone so that the teacher can see it. The teacher will then lead a discussion about whether he or she read a fact or opinion and answer any questions posed by the students.

Each team with the correct answer will receive a point. Students holding the cones will run back to the chalk line and place the cone in the position in which they found it. They will then run back and place themselves at the end of their team’s line. Play will continue, with the teacher

reading another statement containing either a fact or opinion. The teacher needs to ensure that all students get at least one chance to run to the fact and opinion cones.

Of course, the teacher has the option to change the locomotive skill the students will be performing during the race. Various examples of locomotive skills are running, walking, walking backwards, hopping, skipping, jumping, etc.

**Evaluation:** The teacher will monitor all activity and lead any discussion about facts and opinions needed by the students.



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