Is That a Fact?

**Introduction:** Sometimes students have a difficult time distinguishing between factual statements and opinions. While performing this activity, the children will get exercise and practice developing their own facts and opinions.

**Grade Level and Subject:** 5th Grade Reading and P. E.

**TEKS:**
- Reading: 10J
- P.E.: 1B, 1C, 1K, 1L, 3A, 4A

**Materials:** Playground balls and chalk (if needed)

**Resources:** *The Ultimate Playground & Recess Game Book* by Guy Bailey. ISBN: 0-9669727-2-4

**Activity:** This game should be played on an area with two adjoining squares. Each square should be four feet on each side (picture a small tennis court without the net). The teacher may want to draw a number of these on the playground so that all students can be actively engaged in this activity. A ball is needed for each pair of students playing on the two-square court. The teacher stands where he or she can be heard by all students.

The teacher calls out the word “fact.” Each pair of students then bounces the ball back and forth between them, with each student catching the ball as it comes to him or her. As each student catches the ball, he or she must call out a fact. This happens until the teacher stops the activity. The teacher can then call out “opinion” and have the students bounce the ball back and forth between them, calling out opinions as they catch the ball.

A variation of this game is for each student to keep points for every correct fact or opinion he or she gives. At the end of a predetermined time, each student counts the number of points accumulated to see who has the most points.

If space is limited and there are few two-square courts, the students can divide themselves equally between courts. Play commences until someone makes a mistake with either the fact or opinion. Then he or she steps out of the court and lets another student play. The students continue playing the activity this way until it ends.

**Evaluation:** The teacher observes and actively listens to each group. He or she determines if the students are able to distinguish between fact and opinion by the statements that are being called out. Assistance should be given when needed.