

Facts/ Opinions

In writing a paragraph to express an opinion, students need to be able to express their ideas and also support their ideas with some facts to make their ideas stronger because facts are stronger than opinions. Consequently, student writers can persuade their readers to believe them better.

Let's try checking yourself whether you can distinguish between facts and opinions. Write **F** if you think that the following sentences are facts and **O** if you think they are opinions.

- 1. The sun rises in the east.
-2. The sunrise was very beautiful this morning.
-3. All Thai people should learn how to surf the Internet.
-4. The Bangkok Post is 20 baht per issue.
-5. The Bangkok Post is not expensive.
-6. The Bangkok Post is the name of an English newspaper available in Thailand.
-7. The weather is too hot today.
-8. The temperature today is 42 degrees Celsius.
-9. In my view, the Bangkok Post is a good newspaper.
-10. The harder you study, the richer you will be.

Now! Let's make a decision. Which opinion is stronger ?

A.
I think that human beings cannot live on Mars. I do believe that no one can stay alive on Mars more than two days.

B.
I think that human beings cannot live on Mars. The temperature on Mars is – 60 degrees Celsius.

Answer Key

FACTS	OPINIONS
1. The sun rises in the east.	2. The sunrise was very beautiful this morning.
4. The Bangkok Post is 20 baht per issue.	3. All Thai people should learn how to surf the Internet.
6. The Bangkok Post is the name of an English newspaper available in Thailand.	5. The Bangkok Post is not expensive.
8. The temperature today is 42 degrees Celsius.	7. The weather is too hot today.
	9. In my view, the Bangkok Post is a good newspaper.
	10. The harder you study , the richer you will be.

Now! Let's make a decision. Which opinion is stronger ?

Answer Key: B.

The sentence "The temperature on Mars is - 60 degrees Celsius" is a fact.

Don't forget that facts can make your opinion stronger.