

Non-Fiction Objective(s):

- ✓ SWBAT identify and analyze an argument presented by an author in a text

Do Now:

Underline the facts and circle the author's opinions in the following excerpt.

Feudal Society

Safety was a serious concern during the Middle Ages. Many people chose to form small communities. These communities revolved around the lord, also known as the master. The communities' roots tracked back to Germanic tribes. In these tribes, the warriors engaged in battle for the chief, and in turn, the chief took care of things the warriors needed.

The structure of feudal society looked much like a pyramid. The king was at the top of the pyramid and peasants were at the bottom. The king gave land grants, also known as fiefs, to lords. In exchange, the lords provided soldiers to the king. The lord provided fiefs to lesser lords, also known as vassals.

During the Middle Ages, if peasants would have asked for equal rights, they would not have had to work so hard. The peasants had to do much of the dirty work for the lords. Peasants and warriors should have started their own kingdom instead of sticking to the tradition settlement.

How do I distinguish facts from opinions in a non-fiction text?

**CW
Task**

In any type of writing, there will be facts and opinions.

+ Facts are statements that are

+ Opinions are statements that are based on

_____ and _____ that
cannot be proven. Opinions are not considered to be factual,
but _____.

Here is how I determine the effect of an author's perspective (viewpoint)

- When reading a non-fiction text, it is important to analyze if the text is _____ or _____.
- If a nonfiction text is _____, this means that the author adds few of their personal opinions to the text. The text is usually written in a straightforward manner.
- If the text is _____, the author will present facts about a person's life without telling the reader what they personally think about the person's life. If the text is _____, then the author presents only the facts about the topic of the text.
- If the text provides an overview of different sides of an argument, the author presents both sides _____ and _____.

- If a nonfiction text is opinionated, the author often wants to _____ you that their opinion is correct. They may include personal opinions or they may favor one side of an argument over another.
- If the text is biographical they may _____ decisions the person made or question why the person took certain actions in their lives.
- It is important to determine if non-fiction texts are _____ or _____ so that you can determine if the source you are reading is trustworthy and so that you are aware of what opinions might be present in the text.

The two main reasons for writing non-fiction is to:

1. _____ **and to**
2. _____

Read the following non-fiction passage. PARLAP (underline the facts & circle the author's

Danger Online

- 1 Should schools crack down on MySpace users?
- 2 The Internet can be a great way to connect with people. The latest Web craze is social networking¹ on Web sites such as MySpace. More than 65 million young people use online social networking sites. MySpace—the most popular of those Web sites—is adding about 250,000 users every week.
- 3 That cyberspace trend is causing problems in schools, however. In a recent survey, nearly 36 percent of school administrators told the National School Board Association (NSBA) that social networking sites disrupted learning in their districts. Should school districts ban sites like MySpace?
- 4 Teachers and principals are worried that some students use social networking to post personal information and to cyberbully other students. One of the biggest dangers comes from people who misrepresent² themselves to figure out kids' personal information.
- 5 Many districts have blocked students from accessing, or using, social-networking sites from school computers and some have suspended students for posting harmful material on those sites from their home computers. Nearly two-thirds of U.S. kids have computers in their homes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- 6 "It is important to keep in mind that just blocking access to social Web sites at school is not the end of the story," warns NSBA executive director Anne

¹ **networking:** to connect with people who share similar interests or hobbies

² **misrepresent:** to give a false or misleading idea of someone or something

Bryant. "Most of the misuse of these sites takes place at home but still affects the classroom."

- 7 Some educators aren't as quick to pull the plug on social networking. They say the main problem with sites like MySpace is that students don't understand the dangers involved in using them. "Many students are posting personal information about themselves without regard to who has access to that information," Jim Hirsch, a technology official at the Plano Independent School District in Plano, Texas, told *WR News*. "Schools should focus on educating their students and their parents on how to be safe online."
- 8 Experts argue that too many schools are banning social networking Web sites without thinking about their educational benefits. "Social networking Web sites can help connect students in the United States to their peers in other countries, providing invaluable lessons in foreign cultures," explains Hirsch.
- 9 While educators may disagree about the harms of web-based social networking sites, most parents agree—allowing children to use sites such as MySpace is never a good idea. Any decent parent who cares about their child would never allow them to sign up for one of these websites. After all, no good can come from students working on computers for hours at a time. Instead, good parents know that students should be encouraged to help complete chores around the house or should do other useful things with their time.

Name: _____ Date: HR: _____

Exit Ticket: "Danger Online" Questions

- ___ 1. Which of the following statements from the passage is a fact?
- a. Libraries should not allow social networking sites on their computers.
 - b. MySpace is adding about 250,000 users each week.
 - c. All teachers hate social networking sites.
 - d. Using social networking sites affects students only at home
- ___ 2. Which of the following is an opinion about networking web sites?
- a. The educational value outweighs the dangers.
 - b. A safety tip is to never give out personal information.
 - c. It is possible for students to post harmful material on the web.
 - d. Schools can block access to the sites.
- ___ 3. According to NSBA director Ann Bryant, although most misuse occurs at home,
- a. schools should teach students how to be safe online.
 - b. it is educational for U.S. students to network with foreign peers.
 - c. it matters who gets your information.
 - d. it can still affect what happens in the classroom.
4. What type of information do you think students should be suspended for posting? Explain.

5. In paragraph 9 the author expresses his or her viewpoint about whether parents should allow students to use social networking websites. Based on the text, do you agree with the author's viewpoint? Why or why not?

Your Score: _____/5

How do I distinguish **facts** from **opinions** in a non-fiction text?

CW
Task

In any type of writing, there will be facts and opinions.

+ Facts are statements that are **true and can be proven by direct experience**.

+ Opinions are statements that are based on **personal beliefs** and **feelings** that cannot be proven. Opinions are not considered to be factual, but **can be supported by facts**.

Here is how I determine the **effect** of an author's perspective (viewpoint)

- When reading a non-fiction text, it is important to analyze if the text is **factual** or **opinionated**.
- If a nonfiction text is **opinionated**, this means that the author adds few of their personal opinions to the text. The text is usually written in a straightforward manner.
- If the text is **biographical**, the author will present facts about a person's life without telling the reader what they personally think about the person's life. If the text is **factual**, then the author presents only the facts about the topic of the text.
- If the text provides an overview of different sides of an argument, the author presents both sides **equally** and **fairly**.

- If a nonfiction text is opinionated, the author often wants to **convince** you that their opinion is correct. They may include personal opinions or they may favor one side of an argument over another.
- If the text is biographical they may **question** decisions the person made or question why the person took certain actions in their lives.
- It is important to determine if non-fiction texts are **factual** or **opinionated** so that you can determine if the source you are reading is trustworthy and so that you are aware of what opinions might be present in the text.

The two main reasons for writing non-fiction is to:

1. **Persuade/convince** and to
2. **inform**

Reading Class of 2020

Name: _____

HR: _____

**HW
Task
97**

Directions: Read the following passage. Underline the facts and circle the opinions.

Should cell phones be allowed in school? Are cell phones causing more bad than good? This article graps information from many sources to find an answer to the uprising question... Should cell phones be allowed in schools?

Cell Phones! Helpful Handhelds, or Disrupting Device?

Crackdown! Ban! Dangerous! These are phrases that are used when it comes to cell phones. However, these words are clearly against irresponsible cell phone use in public. Helpful! Needed! Time savers! These are also thrown around about cell phones. Some, like [Bruce Newman](#); an editor for an AAA magazine, say cell phones pose too much danger; especially on the roads. A blog written on the subject was posted on New York Times' blogsite, and a reader by the name of 'Kevin' commented that a cell phone could potentially save lives. So, should cell phones be allowed in public places? In my opinion I believe cell phones should be allowed, as long as people are responsible.

In a study published by the AEI-Brookings Joint Center, a team of researchers compared the effects of driving while talking on the phone and driving while drunk. They concluded that [drivers](#) that were using cell phones exhibited greater impairment than intoxicated drivers. So yes, cell phones DO pose potential threats. However, Hilary Davis (<http://media.http://www.collegian.com>) a journalist for The Rocky Mountain College paper says cell phones can **save lives**.

CRASH!! You were driving down the highway on a rainy day, when a driver loses control and slams right into you. After you are done spinning out, you reach for your cell phone; with the last amount of energy you have left to call 911. This simple call could save your life, or someone else. With today's world evolving so fast, new dangers come as well. With that, we need to get help and fast! However not only on the road do we need cell phones.

We all remember the tragic day, April 20th 1999, the awful Columbine High School Shooting. Two students opened fire on many innocent people that day. Frantic 911 calls were made. Dispatchers and parents were on the line with students using their cell phones to call out for help. Imagine the heart ache if you knew someone dear to you was in danger and you had no way to reach them.

Chelsey Fortner (<http://www.glynn.k12.ga.us>) was watching the news that catastrophic day. She didn't own a cell phone at the time, but this got her thinking. If she were in a similar

situation, god forbid, wouldn't she want to reach out to her family too? This inspired her to go and purchase a cell phone for emergencies.

Many cell phone customers buy their phones with only emergency use intentions. But what about the kids and teens that use their cell phones to send 300 texts a day? Like a Scottish teen who is in rehab for excessive cell phone use (<http://www.devhardware.com>)! Another teen sends 345 mobile messages a day! This is what he said about text messages, "It's kind of comforting when you get one. I like it, it's like a game of ping-pong, as you send one and get one back."

Some blame the cell phone companies; but all they are doing is selling a product. Others blame irresponsible teens; but why blame them for wanting to talk to their friends? So, who's left, **THE PARENTS!** Parents need to limit their teen's usage of their cell phones! Limited cell phone plans do exist and need to be introduced more, therefore opening new options for parents and teens.

In conclusion, cell phones should be allowed in public places. They are very useful in emergencies and can save lives. As long as people know when the right time to use them, there should be no problem. So don't be the guy who ruins everyone's movie by keeping your cell on. Cells need to be used with moderation and responsibility

http://www.bukisa.com/articles/61389_cell-phone-article-persuasive
