Name: _____   Date: _____

Important Other   Team: _____

Fact, *Opinion or* Bias

Any piece of writing can be subject to the personal opinion and bias of the writer. This is something that in reading we must be constantly aware of as we learn to identify the facts of a piece and make our own inferences.

Definitions:

Fact: Information that can be proven to be true or false. A fact is a statement that can be verified, independently and objectively. The fact of a piece of writing is that which is indisputably correct, that which is 'truth'. Examples of facts are often found as figures detailing information such as dates and times within historical writing, numbers, statistics and other such data used in scientific and medical reports

Opinion: A personal statement of what one believes about a subject. An opinion is a statement that cannot be proven true. Opinion is a view or judgment formed about something but which is not necessarily based upon fact. It stems from personal belief and so is not restricted by the facts. Formally, opinion is used in persuasive texts in order to bring about a sharing of an opinion such as the writing used in political campaigns or by those against animal cruelty or tuition fees for students.

Opinion and **bias** are similar in that they are brought into effect through the linguistic skill of the writer.

Bias: A preference for a particular belief or idea over other ideas and beliefs. Whereas opinion is natural and often highly influential within a text, **bias** is more extreme. It is prejudice in favor of or against one thing or person and can be unfair. In some cases , writers are aware of the problems caused by their personal bias and attempt to curb it but in other cases bias acts as a n extended version of opinion such as when advertising products in competitive markets.

Fact Words   *Opinion Words*
true   prove   *feel   think*
know   never   *seems   best/worst*
evidence   *believe   greatest*