



# UNDERSTANDING SOURCES THROUGH ROBERT H. JACKSON

Lesson Plan for Grades 4-8

Teacher Resource: Fact v. Opinion

**Accurate and Reliable Sources:** Primary and Secondary sources are not always reliable and accurate. Sources can be full of bias or opinions rather than facts.

- Why It Matters:
  - The strength of an argument increases when it is based on evidence from multiple sources
  - To construct a good argument, you should always question the bias and accuracy of information
  - To strengthen an argument, analyze various types of sources with multiple points of view to draw conclusions

**Facts:** Sources that rely on facts instead of opinions are more likely to be accurate and reliable.

- Why It Matters:
  - Facts are supported by evidence
  - Facts give specific information
  - Facts are definitive statements
  - Facts often contain numbers, dates, or ages
- Example:
  - Robert H. Jackson was an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court.
  - The Nuremberg Trials began in November 1945.

**Opinions:** Opinions are a personal belief or feeling and therefore not provable.

- Why It Matters:
  - Opinions are a person's judgments or views
  - Opinions are not necessarily based on fact or evidence
  - Opinions tell us how a person feels or thinks
  - Opinions are not as objective as facts
- Example:
  - Robert H. Jackson was the greatest legal thinker in American History.
  - The Supreme Court is the most important branch in the government.

**Bias:** Bias is when someone shows favor to one thing, person, or group rather than another.

- Example:



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- A newspaper only publishes articles supporting one political party, and not the other
- A biography of Robert H. Jackson that is written by a close personal friend

## Discussion Questions:

- Can you find both facts and opinions in one article?
- How do you know if a source is biased?
- Why should we check more than one source when doing research?