

Valid Opinions

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

No one's opinion can be proved true or false. But some opinions are better than others. Valid opinions are supported by facts. These opinions are reached when people think objectively. You are being objective when you try to see things as they are, not as you feel they should be. People who are not objective, or subjective, allow their personal feelings to influence their opinions.

When you read or hear an opinion, you should consider whether it is **valid**. If facts are given to support the opinion, it probably is valid. But remember that facts can be proved to be wrong.

PART I – Directions: The paragraphs that follow contain facts and opinions. Read the sentences, and write **F** for facts or **O** for the opinion on the blanks. Then, decide if the paragraph presents a valid or an invalid opinion. Circle the correct choice.

(A)

- _____ 1. Tropical rain forests are the most fragile and spectacular of any forest type.
- _____ 2. An estimated 50 percent of all plant and animal species live in tropical rains forests.
- _____ 3. Little Panama's forests alone contain as many plant species as all of Europe.
- _____ 4. Most tropical rain forest destruction is caused by land-hungry farmers who first clear the land and then burn what they have cut down.
- _____ 5. This paragraph is: Valid/Invalid

(B)

- _____ 1. Many people the world over are concerned about the rapid rate of destruction of the planet's tropical rain forests.
- _____ 2. Scientists are concerned because so little is known about how a tropical forest works, what makes the forests so fragile, and just how important they are in our lives.
- _____ 3. Tropical rain forest ecology is an important new area of scientific study.
- _____ 4. Several institutions are now doing research to find out just how big a tropical rain forest has to be in order to maintain its rich diversity.
- _____ 5. This paragraph is: Valid/Invalid

PART III – Directions: Some of the opinions below are presented by authorities in the field. Some of the opinions are also backed up with facts. Some of the opinions are those of people who have some personal interest or something to gain. Check the boxes below to determine whether the speaker is giving a valid opinion.

1. Lawyer: "Your low water pressure probably means you have a blockage in your pipes."

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> No Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Valid Opinion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interest | |

2. Doctor: "If you're having trouble with your knee, you should see an orthopedist, a doctor who specializes in joint diseases."

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> No Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Valid Opinion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interest | |

3. Chemist: "Our water supply is becoming so polluted with chemical wastes that in another ten years we won't be able to drink it."

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> No Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Valid Opinion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interest | |

4. Forest Ranger: "I've been fishing this stream for twenty years, and I can assure you that this is the best spot for catching trout."

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> No Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Valid Opinion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interest | |

5. Camera store owner: "The best camera for your needs is this 35 millimeter with the telephoto lens. Even though it's more expensive than that other brand, I'm sure you'll be happier with it."

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> No Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Valid Opinion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interest | |

PART III – Directions: In the left-hand column, there are statements of opinion. In the right-hand column, there are statements of fact. On the blank, write the letter of the statement of fact that directly supports the opinion.

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|---|--|
| _____ 1. If we keep losing rain forests in America, the whole world will be in trouble. | A. In 1989 more than 75% of those surveyed in Latin America, Asia, and Africa voiced concern about the loss of trees in their homelands. |
| _____ 2. A basic threat to rain forests is the number of people who want to get rich. | B. Prospectors are removing 70 tons of gold a year from rain forests. |
| _____ 3. Many countries are concerned about the loss of rain forests. | C. Rain forests are known to be major regulators of local climates. |
| _____ 4. Most scientists see the rain forests as vital protectors of the planet. | D. Rain forests are a source of numerous drugs used to fight disease. |
| _____ 5. The quickest and worst destruction of rain forests is by farmers. | E. Farmers use a slash-and-burn agriculture that is responsible for the ruin of 50 acres of rain forest every hour. |