NAME: _____

CLASS PERIOD: _____

FACT OR OPINION (AND INFORMED OPINION)

FACT AND OPINION: Five of the statements below are facts, and five are opinions. Identify statements of fact with an F and statements of opinion with an O.

_____ 1. According to one survey, the typical American adult spends an average of fourteen weekend hours on chores.

_____ 2. Weekends should be times for relaxing.

_____ 3. Baseball used to be exciting to watch, but now it's just big business.

_____ 4. In 1846, a New York Knickerbocker player was fined six cents for swearing at the umpire.

_____ 5. Elephants have been known to run as fast as twenty-four miles per hour for short distances.

_____ 6. African elephants are still being killed for their ivory tusks.

_____ 7. The elephant is a wonderful creature that should be protected.

_____ 8. No time in American history was more exciting than the settling of the West.

_____ 9. During the 1840s, tens of thousands of American families chalked "GTT" (Gone to Texas) on their gates or painted "California or Bust" on their wagons and joined the trek westward.

_____ 10. Those pioneers who traveled west in the 1800s were the last American heroes.

FINDING FACT AND OPINION IN NEWSPAPERS

These short reviews were taken from a newspaper movie guide. Some provide only factual reports; others contain opinions about the movie as well. Identify the factual reviews with an F_; identify those that also contain the reviewer's opinion with an F_+_O_.

_____ 1. Dr. Dolittle, '98, Eddie Murphy. A remake of the Hugh Lofting stories about the physician who can communicate with animals.

_____ 2. Intolerable Cruelty, '03, George Clooney, Catherine Zeta-Jones. A fast-moving comedy about a divorce lawyer and gold digger trying to get the best of each other. Laughs aplenty, and a sexy, goofy, irreverent charm.

_____ 3. Radio, '03, Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Ed Harris star in this story of a mentally challenged man and the high school football coach who decides to help him.

_____ 4. Death Takes a Holiday, '34. Fredric March, Evelyn Venable. Lovely and interesting meditation on the supernatural. Death takes human form to visit Earth and learn why people fear him.

_____ 5. Beloved, '98. Oprah Winfrey, Danny Glover. Powerful performances hold together this somewhat uneven adaptation of Toni Morrison's novel about the legacy of slavery after the Civil War.

USING A BOOK REVIEW

The book review below contains five sentences. Each sentence is fact or opinion. In addition, one sentence expresses both a fact and an opinion. Identify the facts with an F, the opinions with an O, and the statement of fact and opinion with an F+O.

1. M. Scott Peck, M.D., has written more recent books, but none is as strong, persuasive, and encouraging as The Road Less Traveled. 2. First published in 1978, the book is still being sold in bookstores around the country. 3. Subtitled "A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth," it's about facing and solving life's problems. 4. A psychiatrist, Peck has drawn from his work with patients "as they struggled to avoid or to gain ever greater levels of maturity" as well as on his own life. 5. This book is sure to inspire every reader to reach a greater level of self-understanding. 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

INFORMED OPINIONS

Informed Opinion: An informed opinion is based on knowledge of the facts and carefully considered principles. It relies on evidence instead of limited personal experience. When you choose sources for your papers, you will generally want an informed opinion from a professional source. If a reporter summarizes a study or quotes an expert, try to find the original source. Generally the original source is considered the most reliable: it's the most complete and you can judge the evidence for yourself.

Flora, Joan. "CCSS Argument Writing Module I: Arguments of Probability (Fact)." *Mesd.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Aug. 2014.