



# TREATIES IN THE NEWS

## Subjective vs Objective?

We rely heavily on the news media to keep us up-to-date and current about a range of topics and issues that are important to us as citizens. Treaties are one of these important, modern

topics. Newspapers (print or online) are a major source of news. As we wade through this form of media, we must have a critical eye. News articles bombard us with facts and figures, opinions and projections. It is up to us to create order within this chaos and find the patterns that will help us to understand what is true, what could be true, and what is outright false. In order to do all this, you need to have a firm grip on what is *objective* and what is *subjective*.

### *Definition of Objective and Subjective*

Objective is a statement that is completely unbiased. It is not touched by the writer's previous experiences or tastes. It is verifiable by looking up facts (things that can be proven).

Subjective is a statement that has been coloured by the viewpoint of the writer. It often has a basis in reality, but reflects the perspective through which the writer views an issue or topic. It cannot be verified using concrete facts and figures.

It is okay to have an opinion. In newspapers, writer's views and perspectives are typically found in the editorial or opinion section. As readers we should be able to tell if a news article is objective or subjective.

**Task**

- Find a news article in which Treaties are the central topic.
- Cut out or print the article. You will need to staple the article to this worksheet.
- Underline all the **facts** in the article in **red**. (Remember, facts are statements which can be proven.)
- Underline all the **opinions** in **blue**. (Remember, opinions are statements that reflects a writer’s view.)
- Record your information below.

News article title:	
Newspaper:	
Date:	Writer:
Summary: <i>In a couple sentences, summarize the article.</i>	
Number of <b>facts</b> cited: _____ <i>Cite one fact:</i>	Number of <b>opinions</b> offered: _____ <i>Cite one opinion:</i>
 If the article has more facts than opinions it is <i>objective</i> .	
 If the article has more opinions than facts it is <i>subjective</i> .	
 If the article has an equal number of facts and opinions it is <i>balanced</i> .	
The article you read about Treaties is: (circle one) <i>objective</i> <i>subjective</i> <i>balanced</i>	