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**STEP 3: Separate fact from opinion.** *Effective research relies on objective data. The opinions of others may provide interesting ideas to consider but should not be relied on for answers to your question. Consider if the sources of information are credible and if the information provided is factual.*

**Fact:** a piece of information presented as having an objective reality; knowledge or information based on real occurrences

**Opinion:** a view, judgment, or appraisal formed in the mind about a particular matter; a belief or judgment that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty

**Bias:** an inclination of temperament or outlook, especially a personal and sometimes unreasoned judgment

### **Activity # 3 Determining Facts, Opinions, and Bias in a Nonfiction Article**

#### **Directions:**

**Part 1-** Read each paragraphs (adapted from: Laying the Foundation, Inc. Dallas, TX [www.ltftraining.org](http://www.ltftraining.org)); try to determine whether there is bias, using the information, questions, and suggestions 1-7. If so, what might be creating the bias? Write your answer in space provided below.

1. Highlight the facts in the article. Can they be validated?
2. Identify opinions using boxes or circling around the text

Parents always talk about how if schools had uniforms, everything would be so much easier. You wouldn't get caught up on looks and would learn the skills you need. I disagree with this. I think that school uniforms would put a restriction on our creativity. We dress the way we do for a certain reason. Clothes give us expression and the ability to use color and patterns. The first impression we get of people is usually clothes, facial expression and language. If we all wear the same thing we don't get to really see what people are like on the inside. Usually girly girls wear pink and frilly things. Skaters wear baggy pants and Goths usually wear black. Clothes don't distract us from learning the studies we need to, it simply lets us inspire our imaginations and lights up our worlds.—*Anonymous writer on TeenInk.com*