



# Consider the Source

A **fact** can be verified with data. An **opinion** is a personal judgment based on the knowledge or beliefs the person has at that point in time. Can opinions be trusted? It depends on the source.

Learn more by reading the following statements and then answer the questions below each statement. Decide whether the source of information is reliable or unreliable, and then circle the correct answer at the end of each statement. Finally, answer the “Think It Through” question at the bottom of the page. Use separate paper as needed.



## 1. “Marijuana is not addictive.”

**Source:** *High school student offering marijuana to a friend*

- a) Is the above statement most likely fact or opinion? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Where might this student have gotten his or her information? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What do you think is the purpose of this statement? \_\_\_\_\_

Source Reliable                      Source Unreliable

## 2. “One in six people who start smoking marijuana in their teens become addicted.”

**Source:** *The National Institute on Drug Abuse*

- a) Is the above statement most likely fact or opinion? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Where did the information most likely come from? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What do you think is the purpose of this statement? \_\_\_\_\_

Source Reliable                      Source Unreliable

## 3. “I’m okay to drive. I only got a little stoned and had a couple of beers. Besides, if I don’t bring Mom’s car home, I’m dead!”

**Source:** *High school student to a friend after a party*

- a) Can the above statement be verified as true? \_\_\_\_\_

- b) On what kind of information is the student likely basing his or her decision? \_\_\_\_\_

- c) What other factors should the student take into consideration before getting behind the wheel of the car? \_\_\_\_\_

Source Reliable                      Source Unreliable

## 4. “Marijuana—sometimes in combination with other drugs and alcohol—is found in the bloodstream of up to 14 percent of drivers who die in car accidents.”

**Source:** *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)*

- a) Can the above statement be verified as a fact? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Where did the NHTSA most likely get its information? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) How can knowing this information make a difference for the student wanting to drive home after a party? \_\_\_\_\_

Source Reliable                      Source Unreliable

**Think It Through:** Every day, you are bombarded with information from a variety of sources, including friends, teachers, family, books, TV programs, the Internet, music, and more. Based on the reliability rating activity you just completed, how can you evaluate sources of information in your daily life to determine whether they are based on fact or opinion?