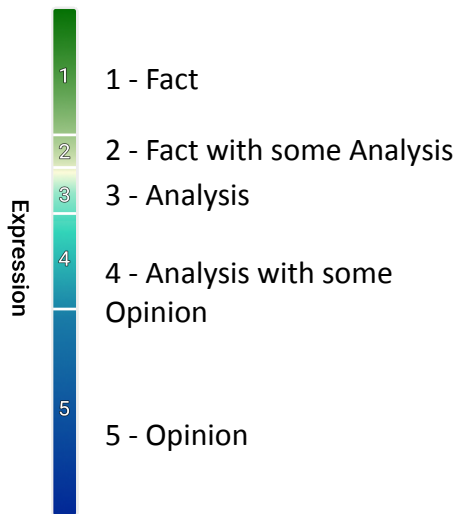


Rating Expression

How an article is presented is a good indicator of its overall reliability. Does it state that it is an opinion piece? Does it want you to think it's full of facts?



Here are examples from each of the five types:

1. The highway was closed yesterday (presented as fact).
2. The \$5 million highway project comes at a time of increased traffic following an influx of new residents (fact with some analysis).
3. The county began the project after an increase in state highway funding due to federal incentives (analysis).
4. This is the third consecutive highway project that will come in over budget (analysis) and it has to stop (opinion).
5. I'm sick and tired of road construction (opinion).

You are not necessarily looking for "truth" or "veracity," but instead how the article wants you to think about its content.

The way sentences are framed can be a big clue as to whether an article is opinion or analysis. Look for loaded language. The more you find hyperbole or extreme or insulting words, the likelier it is that the article is toward the opinion side of the scale.

You can also use a courtroom analogy to figure out where on the expression scale an article fits. Does the author sound more like an expert witness reporting what happened? That's presented as fact. Do they sound like a judge weighing the evidence? That's analysis. Or do they sound like a lawyer trying to convince you? That's more of an opinion.