

NAME:**Date:**

Below are excerpts from the voice-overs of each commercial. Identify each statement as either opinion or fact, then decide if any of the facts are debatable and if so, briefly note why.

TEXT FROM THE BUSH COMMERCIAL:

1. In his 12 years as Governor, Bill Clinton has doubled his state debt, doubled government spending, and signed the largest tax increase in his state's history.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

2. Yet his state remains the 45th worst in which to work, the 45th worst for children. It has the worst environmental record.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

3. And the FBI says Arkansas has America's biggest increase in the rate of serious crime.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

4. And now Bill Clinton says he wants to do for America what he's done for Arkansas. America can't take that risk.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

TEXT FROM THE CLINTON COMMERCIAL:

5. For 12 years he has battled the odds in one of America's poorest states and made steady progress.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

6. Arkansas is now first in the nation in job growth.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

7. Even Bush's own Secretary of Labor just called job growth in Arkansas enormous. He moved 17,000 from welfare to work.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

8. And he's kept taxes low: Arkansas has the second-lowest tax burden in the country.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

9. No wonder his fellow Governors, Democrats and Republicans, have named him the nation's most effective Governor. Bill Clinton: For people for a change.

OPINION FACT Debatable? _____

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE FOR 1992 DOC. #3**TEXT FROM THE BUSH COMMERCIAL:**

- 1. In his 12 years as Governor, Bill Clinton has doubled his state debt, doubled government spending, and signed the largest tax increase in his state's history.**

FACT - These are provable facts but they rely upon definitions that may be biased. A doubling of state debt could simultaneously represent a reduction in the debt as a percentage of the state budget particularly considering inflation and the growth of the budget over 12 years. Was "the largest tax increase in that state's history" over time, or a one-shot increase in sales tax? Was it larger in inflation-adjusted dollars?

- 2. Yet his state remains the 45th worst in which to work, the 45th worst for children. It has the worst environmental record.**

OPINION - "Worst" is an opinion. Worst in what ways, according to what criteria? Who is the Corporation for Enterprise Development, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and the Institute for Southern Studies, and are they non-partisan?

- 3. And the FBI says Arkansas has America's biggest increase in the rate of serious crime.**

FACT - There is less to debate here since the FBI statistics are not likely to be skewed for partisan purposes and the criteria for "biggest increase" are relatively clear.

- 4. And now Bill Clinton says he wants to do for America what he's done for Arkansas. America can't take that risk.**

OPINION - Bill Clinton's statement may be a direct quote but the "risk" is an opinion.

TEXT FROM THE CLINTON COMMERCIAL:

- 5. For 12 years he has battled the odds in one of America's poorest states and made steady progress.**

OPINION - "battled the odds" and "made steady progress" are both opinions

- 6. Arkansas is now first in the nation in job growth.**

FACT - Although this is a provable fact, it is important to consider how job growth is defined. A different definition might result in a different fact. Who is the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and is it non-partisan?

- 7. Even Bush's own Secretary of Labor just called job growth in Arkansas enormous. He moved 17,000 from welfare to work.**

FACT - The quote is provable, the Arkansas Department of Human Services seems like a reliable source, but how did they come up with the number 17,000?

- 8. And he's kept taxes low: Arkansas has the second lowest tax burden in the country.**

BOTH OPINION & FACT - Low is an opinion. What criteria were used to determine this?

- 9. No wonder his fellow Governors, Democrats and Republicans, have named him the nation's most effective Governor. Bill Clinton: For people for a change.**

BOTH OPINION & FACT - The Governors' Award is provable. The slogan is an opinion.