

SEPUP Activity 1: Purity in a bottle

Facts: These have references reported that can be readily checked

1. Surveys suggest that half of Americans drink bottled water...
2. A study released in May 2001...bottled water may be no safer
3. In the early 1990s the US House and Energy Commerce Committee reported that 25% of bottled waters came from the same source as the tap water
4. Current industry and government estimates suggest that 25–40% of bottled water comes from tap water...
5. The US EPA has different standards for tap and bottled water
6. The EPA reported in 1996 that about 1 in 10 community tap water systems... violated tap water treatment standards

Likely facts: Can be checked with a little research

1. Millions of Americans drink bottled water
2. Sales have tripled in the last 10 years to over \$5 billion a year
3. World bottled water market represents an annual volume of 89 billion liters...
4. No one drinks more than the Italians...
5. More than 1.5 million tons of plastic are used... and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the bottled water is consumed outside its country of origin

Either: No reference, cannot be readily checked, but seems like a reasonable conclusion

1. Most do it for reasons related to health, taste or convenience

Opinions: Estimates, speculations or simple opinions

1. By the year 2005 the US market will be worth about \$7.3 billion
2. When you add in the additional packaging... the impact of bottled water on the environment may be higher
3. Supporters say that there are few recorded instances of someone getting sick from bottled water
4. Tap water supporters are quick to point out that these are attainment standards-future goals for increased water safety, and that tap water is safe