

SECTION

7A

Ready to Go On? Skills Intervention

7-3 Choosing the Most Useful Measure

Describing a Data Set

The heights, in inches, of the students and coaches on the baseball team are 60, 58, 63, 57, 55, 59, 56, 61, 74, 54, and 74. What are the mean, median, and mode of this data set? Which one best describes the data set?

List the data in order: 54, _____, _____, _____, 58, _____, 60, _____, _____, 74, _____

mean = _____ median = _____ mode = _____

What value is the outlier? _____

The _____ is the best description of the heights. Most of the students and coaches are about _____ inches tall.

Why are the other two not good descriptions of the data set?

Using a Data Set to Persuade

The list shows the number of hours Jordan spent online playing video games during each of the last 8 weeks.

3 7 4 5 3 10 3 5

He wants to convince his mother that he does not spend too much time online playing video games. Should Jordan use the mean, median, or mode to describe the data set? Explain.

List the data in order: 3, _____, 3, _____, _____, 5, 7, _____

mean = _____ median = _____ mode = _____

Which measure makes the number of hours he spends playing video games per week seem highest? _____

Which measure makes the number of hours he spends playing video games per week seem lowest? _____

Should Jordan use the mean, median, or mode to describe the data set to his mother? _____

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Ready to Go On? Skills Intervention**7-3 Choosing the Most Useful Measure**

Kintella suspects that other girls her age get more allowance than she does. She wants to convince her mother to raise her allowance. She polls nine of her friends. The weekly allowances they receive are \$10, \$5, \$7.50, \$5, \$1, \$12.50, \$10, \$5, and \$7. Kintella gets \$5 a week. Should she use the mean, median, or mode to convince her mother to raise her allowance?

Understand the Problem

1. What does Kintella want to show?

2. Should she choose a measure less than or greater than her allowance to show this?

Make a Plan

3. Start by writing the amounts of the allowances in order. Include Kintella's allowance.

4. Find the mean by adding the numbers and dividing by the number of data points.

The sum is _____. The number of data points is _____. So, the mean is _____.

5. Find the middle number: _____. This is the median.

6. The mode is the number that occurs most often. The mode is _____.

Solve

7. How does Kintella's allowance compare to the mean, median, and mode?

8. Which measure will be most convincing for Kintella to use? _____

Explain

9. Can Kintella use the argument that most of her friends get more allowance than she does? Explain.

10. Can Kintella use the argument that she gets an allowance that is below average? Explain.
