

Learning Project 5

Data Analysis — Mean and Median



Introduction

This Learning Project is another that confirms the emphasis on data analysis in the GED 2002. In these three Inquiry Activities, the common thread of data analysis is in the terms: median, mean, and average, although the word average is not used in any of the activities. The use of the formula page where these terms are defined is an especially interesting part of the exploration since these definitions are very complex to understand. A learner would have to bring knowledge of these definitions to the test rather than rely on help from the formulas page (Inquiry Activity 5-1).

Another interesting aspect of the problems in this Learning Project (Inquiry Activities 5-2 and 5-3) is that the average is a given and the learner has to find one of the numbers that will result in the given average. A connection to algebra equations is made in Step 5 in each of these Inquiry Activities.

Inquiry Activity 5-3 also presents an interesting average problem. As stated above, the average is given but the learner has to find two numbers that will result in the given average. What this forces the learner to do is to carefully review all of the multiple choice answers to find the correct combination of numbers. A very different, multiple step approach to averages.

The term mode is not presented in any of these problems and you may want to explore that concept in problems you find useful for that purpose. Another concept not discussed in this Practice Test is probability. You may want to go back to question 28 in the old Practice Test CC to discuss the idea and introduce the use of fractions.