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8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Measures of Central Tendency

A. Objectives:

Students will find the measures of central tendency (Pass 5.2)

B. Instruction:

Explain to students that measures of central tendency are used to describe center values of sets of data. We will learn about four measures of central tendency: mean, mode, median, and range. Define each and discuss when each would be the most appropriate to use. Have the students write the definitions down in their notes or their vocabulary list.

Mean: “the average” The sum of the numbers divided by the number of numbers

Mode: “Most often” the number that occurs with the greatest frequency in a set of numbers. If there are two numbers occurring the with the same frequency the set of numbers is called “bimodal”

Median: “median in the middle” If the numbers are in order least to greatest, the median is the one in the middle. If there is an odd number of numbers this is straight forward, if there is an even number of numbers, the median is the average of the two center numbers.

Range: The smallest of the numbers in the set subtracted from the largest.

Give the students sets of numbers to find the mean, median, mode, and range of. Work one together and have them work another alone.

Example: 8,9,2,4,5,6,9,3

Example: 56,89,65,93,76

C. Assessment:

Write the following questions on the board and conduct a survey of the class to answer each question. Then have the students individually answer the questions:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Survey the class to find the results of the following questions and then find the range, mode, median, and mean of each data set.

1. How many hours do you spend per day watching television?
2. How many children do your parents have?
3. How many pets does your family have?
4. How many hours do you sleep each night?

D. Modification

In my class this year, there was not much need for modification. If a student needed additional instruction you could provide help and/or additional practice.

E. Reflection

This activity went over well with my class. I think it was a fun way for them to find out more about each other while learning new math vocabulary.