

TELEVISION VIEWING HABITS AND THEIR IMPACT

The following project assesses your ability to integrate and use your mathematical understandings to gather data, analyze the data and communicate your conclusions. You will have approximately two weeks to complete this project.

The following editorial appeared in your local newspaper:

TV Continues to Rot Young Minds

The evidence is clear. Study after study confirms what parents have suspected all along.

- **American children watch too many hours of TV;**
- **American children watch too much violence on TV; and**
- **American children watch too many hours of cartoons.**

One study suggests that, for every hour spent in school each week, the average 12 year old watches two hours of TV! Another study suggests that the typical child has seen 10,000 made-for-TV murders by age 14! And researchers have found that, by age 10, many children have already watched a year of cartoons!

It's time for parents to turn the TV off. It's time for children to rediscover reading and games and conversation and homework. It's time to stop the rotting of the minds of our young people.

Do you agree? Do editorials like this one make you angry? Do you believe what the studies show and the researchers mentioned in the editorial say? Well, how about doing something about it.

Your task for this project is to: Write a detailed letter to the editor that summarizes how and why you agree or disagree with the claims made in the editorial. Your letter must be supported by data you collect from other students in your class or school. This data should then be organized into graphs or charts that should be included in your letter.

To successfully complete this task you are expected to:

- design a survey that will allow you to test the claims made in the editorial;
- conduct the survey and gather data from at least 30 students;
- analyze the data and create some graphs or charts to display the data you have collected; and
- write a detailed letter to the editor that summarizes your findings, includes your graphs or charts, and states clearly whether or not you agree with the claims made in the editorial and why.

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Your work will be evaluated on how well you have:

- identified the claims and gathered data to test those claims;
- organized your thoughts and used your data to argue for or against a claim or claims – that is, how good a case you make in support of or against each claim;
- used important mathematical ideas in designing your survey and analyzing your data; and
- communicated your findings effectively – both in words and graphically.

[Source: A Guide to K-12 Program Development in Mathematics, State of Connecticut]

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