Text Sets
by
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TEDU-562
Introduction

Students continuously complaint about how they do not like mathematics. They say they will never use math after they graduate. I decide to do this text set on the recent snow storm in the Richmond area. I can safely say, not many people were prepared for the storm. Would that have made difference if I studied the storm mathematically? Other than seeing 4 inches of snow, before it comes, can the average person mentally imagine this snow level to map out a preparation plan? Students will read this editorial and reflect on how the mathematical information can help one’s preparation for a storm.

Summary of Text

Let it snow… even if it early. This article is about the first snow storm in the Richmond metropolitan area. Specialist report that snow storms bringing four inches or more usually happen during the latter month of January and the latter month of February. So seeing so much snow so early this season in Richmond was quite a surprise. This article like a lot of numerical information such as snow fall amounts, reported accidents, power outages, and even the prediction of the storm coming (Bacque, A1-9).

Reading Level

According to Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level readability test, it states that the article is on a 12.0 grade level. This would be perfect for my Integrated 2 students who are majority juniors and seniors.

Biographic Information

Introduction

In solving linear equations, it is imperative for students to learn how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers and rational numbers. This is extremely essential in solving equations because not only do they contain these types of numbers, they also obtain variables, and an equal sign. All these components help in balancing an equation. These basic arithmetic skills are not only applicable in the classroom, but they also assist in real-life functions. After learning about adding/subtracting/multiplying and dividing integers and rations, we will apply this concept to how it will help in real work situation.

Summary of Text

Donald in Mathmagic Land is a videotape that is a great way for my students to re-live their childhood through a cartoon and obtain information applicable to the subject being taught. It is also a fun way for the students to relate mathematics to real-life experiences and it shows them the importance of knowing how to add and subtract integers outside of the classroom. The segment of the video to be viewed, demonstrates that the success in the game of pool is not just by luck, but by recognizing and understanding simple mathematical calculations that can be used for a successful win (Disney, 1959).

Reading Level

Donald in Mathmagic Land is not rated; however it is an animated film and I feel it is safe to assume that it is geared toward a younger audience. After viewing the video, a lot of the material may be advance for a child schooled on an elementary level. A middle school student may gain more academically from viewing this video. Having my Integrated 1 students, this should be perfect for them to understand and digest the material covered on the video.

Bibliographic Information

Disney, Walt (Producer). (1959). Donald in Mathmagic Land [Videotape]. Burbank, California: Walt Disney Pictures
Introduction

While some would say money is the root of all evil, when it gets cold outside, heat could be the source of things that are bad as well. Heating homes see to be the new money making business. The mathematical facts involving the article not only is very informative, but it also helps prepare these young adults for what is to come.

Summary of Text

While some people were so eager for winter to come, almost no one would ever be ready for the cost of being cold. Heating bills are expected to be the highest it has been since the winter of 2000-2001. This is scary to think. Homeowners on average will see a 25.7% increase in their heating cost for a just a year ago. Unfortunately, the high cost of heat will be effected by low-income and fixed-income household the worst. (Hagenbaugh, 2005)

Reading Level

According the Flesch-Kincaid readability test, 11.4. With most of my Integrated 2 student approaching graduation, they soon will have to experience the effects of the winter cost when they decide to live on their own. No only should this article be at a good comfort level for them, but they also should acquire useful information to help prepare them for the future.

Biographic Information

Hagenbaugh, B. (2005, December 7). Heating bill bump to hit 5-year high. USA Today, pp. 1A.
Introduction

With an increase of Hispanic population at Varina, I thought this would be a great editorial for my students to read. A large number of my student have their own stereotypes as to why some of our Hispanic Varinians are in the United States. With all the statistical information in the article, it should help my students understand how most of these Mexicans are here.

Summary of Text

This article is informing reader about the reasons behind why over six million Mexicans move to the United States: family connections and better job opportunity. Hopefully this will put an end to the stories about Mexicans coming to the America due to living in poverty or lack of jobs. A survey of Mexicans by the Pew Hispanic Center shows that only 5% of respondents who have been in the United States for two years or less were jobless in Mexico. (Nasser, 2005)

Reading Level

12.0 is the recorded readability level according the Flesch-Kincaid Readability test. For that reason, this article is perfect for my Integrated 2 students who are majority juniors and seniors.

Biographic Information

Nasser, H. E. (2005, December 7). Family, better jobs pull mexicans to usa. USA Today, pp. 3A.
Introduction

Who said I will never use this after I graduate? Math is continuously used. And I you didn’t learn it or pay attention when you learned this lesson, you will if you have over due car taxes. This article shows how important math skill are need to survive after graduation.

Summary of Text

Goochland County warns their residence, if they have unpaid car taxes or fees from the years 2000- 2004, they better hurry up and pay up. In the next year, they will be increasing those bills by at least 70 percent or more. In addition to owing the entire assessed amount, the full amount will be subject to a 10 percent interest charge for each year the bill went unpaid. Those who try to escape and not pay the car taxes will be rejected when trying to renew their car registration (Setegn, 2005).

Reading Level

The Flesch-Kincaid readability test suggest the reading level of this article is at a 10.5 grade level. This would be great for my Algebra 1 students. While most of the students are ninth graders, there are a small percentage of them who are repeater. Have material specifically for my ninth grader will help challenge my freshmen and provide a great differentiated lesson.

Biographic Information

Introduction

Shopping is something that usually gets the attention of many people, but especially this time of year. For that reason, I assumed my students would be interested in reading an article on this topic. My Integrated 1 students are learning how to convert percents to fractions. While many of them don’t understand the importance of why they need to know this, a small percentage of them have learned that in some cases it is easier to interpret things are percents and at other times it is easier to read values as fractions. With this text set, students will read the article and convert percents into fractions. After doing this, they must reflect on which method was easier to understand: using percents or fractions. Students will work in groups to read the article, summarize and convert numerical values individually and regroup to discuss their findings. Answers may vary, so it will be interesting to see their individual response and reaction to this activity.

Summary of Text

This article summarizes how retailers are experiencing a cut in sales thus far this holiday season. This decline in sales are said to be the effects of elevated gas prices at the pump. The heightened prices have been an effect of Hurricane Katrina. These prices have increased temptation for consumers to shop at discounted stores that are more affordable verses high price retail chains that usually seem to have been popular during previous holiday seasons. (Barbaro, 2005).

Reading Level

Using this text set with my Integrated 2 students would be perfect considering that the readability level is ranked 12.0 according to the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level readability test. Keeping in mind Integrated 2 is a class for tenth graders, most of the students in this particular class are tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders.

Biographic Information

Introduction

Converting ratios to percents is something students have to know in a mathematics class and with my Integrated 2 students, this is no exception. Because this article displays a large number of its data as percents, I think it would make the information more personal and better to understand if my students convert the percents into ratios. By doing this, they can get a better idea of how many people are currently without a job. For instance, if the article states 25% of Virginians are unemployed, converting this to a ratio would interpret it as 1 out of 4 persons are unemployed. They could then look around the classroom and count every forth person and get a better idea of how the community is affected by these numbers. They also could get a better understanding of what 75% means.

Summary of Text

This passage summarizes how the unemployment rate in the state of Virginia is at its lowest in four years. This is the sixth lowest of the top metropolitan areas within the United States. While this number is low, the unemployment rate for the month of October 2005 has recorded its best numbers in five years. The national redundancy rate has declined 0.2 percent since the month of September 2005 (Dunham, 2005).

Reading Level

After using the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level readability test, it states this article is on a 12.0 grade level. Because the article would more than likely target a mature audience, it is not surprising to see the readability level so high. My Integrated 2 would probably have an easy time reading this article because most of them are juniors and seniors. Therefore, reading about unemployment statistics may be very interesting to them considering they are soon going to become a part of the work world.

Biographic Information

Introduction

Driving or at least learning how to drive, is very important to most of my Algebra 1 students, who are about to turn fifteen years old. As they get closer and closer to their time to drive, having a car to drive is just as important to them. Reading an article on car sales would really get them looking into, if not already, on the automobile industry. This article contains statistical data informing readers on the sales of American made cars. With this data, the student will take the percentages and convert them to decimals. In doing so, they should eventually correlate the similarities in percentages and decimals.

Summary of Text

This editorial informs reads of the decline in automobile sales for the fourth consecutive month. American companies, such as, General Motors and Ford Motors, were mostly effected by these unsuccessful numbers. According to War’s AutoInfoBank, sales have decreased 6.8 percent in November compared with the November’s sales in the year 2004. Due to lack of sales, Ford is said to cut production in the first quarter of 2006 by 2.5 percent with the intentions of balancing out the effects lack of sales could have on their financial sector (Peters, 2005).

Reading Level

Using this editorial column with my Algebra 1 students would be perfect considering that the readability level is rated 10.4 according to the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Readability Test. While most of my Algebra 1 students are ninth graders, I always aim to teach beyond their abilities. Pushing them to a 10.4 reading level, my be a bit challenging, but it is at the lower end of the 10th grade spectrum. They should be able to handle this.

Biographic Information

Introduction

The real world is all about competition and with survival of the fittest, only the strongest survive in today’s society. Knowing who your competitors are is extremely important when going on job interviews and applying to colleges. Because the average grade level for my Integrated 2 class is eleventh and twelfth graders, this should be a major concern for them. If it is not, this article is a good way to get them thinking about their competitors. This editorial has a great amount of statistical percentages about the advances blacks and Hispanics have made academically in mathematics and reading compared to their white correspondents. Students will take these percentages and convert them to ratios, so they can get a true understanding of how much work their competitors are doing.

Summary of Text

As part of the country’s measure of school performance, the National assessment of Educational Process, also known as the national report card, measured mathematics and reading skills in eleven of the country’s largest urban school systems. These assessments reported a decline in the gap between achievement amongst black and Hispanic students and their white counterparts. The data included with the article shows the percentages of white, black and Hispanic students in New York City, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Washington, and six other cities throughout the United States. (Herszenhorn, 2005).

Reading Level

After using the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level readability test, it states this article is on a 11.7 grade level. Using this material for my Integrated 2 class, this happens to be a tenth grade mathematics class, although most of the students taking this class are eleventh and twelfth graders. I think this newspaper clipping should be at a comfortable reading level for the students of this class.

Biographic Information

Introduction

Whose better: boys or girls? Hands down, my students would LOVE to read this article. Not only is it professionally written, but it includes the statistical data to back up the evidence. Because this topic is so debatable, I will allow students to pick which method they feel most comfortable with to convert the percentages. They could convert the percentages in the article to fractions, decimals, or ratios. After they do so, they could back up their own argument using their conversions.

Summary of Text

This article summarizes how tenth grade boys are lacking academically in comparison to girls. Between the fourth and eighth grades, the literacy gender gaps doubles, and girls are ending up a year and a half ahead of boys, on average. This is a change from research done almost a decade ago when studies showed that females were behind in mathematics and science. Unfortunately, researchers cannot figure out why this is happening and what can be done (Mullins, 2005).

Reading Level

After using the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level readability test, it states this article is on a 9.5 grade level. This would be great for my Integrated 1 students who are mainly 9th graders. For some reason, because of the topic, I think if the reading level was higher, they would still enjoy and try their hardest to comprehend this article.

Bibliographic Information