

Mean, Median, and Mode

Mean (average)—The sum of a group of numbers divided by the number of addends.
Median—The middle number when a group of numbers is arranged in order from least to greatest.
Mode—The number that occurs most frequently in a group of numbers.

Skill 1 Finding the mean

Find the mean of these basketball players' scores: 48, 36, 51, 72, 58.

Step 1 Add the scores. $48 + 36 + 51 + 72 + 58 = 265$

Step 2 Divide by the number of scores. $265 \div 5 = 53$

The mean, or average, of these scores is 53.

Skill 2 Finding the median of an odd number of scores

Find the median of these bowling scores: 126, 108, 145, 108, 117.

Step 1 Arrange the scores in order. $108 \quad 108 \quad 117 \quad 126 \quad 145$

Step 2 Find the middle score. 117

The median of these scores is 117.

Skill 3 Finding the median of an even number of scores

Find the median of these bowling scores: 139, 106, 145, 113, 128, 109.

Step 1 Arrange the scores in order. $106 \quad 109 \quad 113 \quad 128 \quad 139 \quad 145$

Step 2 Find the middle score.
 (THINK: There is no *one* middle number.) $113 \quad 128$

Step 3 Find the mean of the two middle scores. $113 + 128 = 241 \div 2 = 120.5$

The median of these scores is 120.5.

Skill 4 Finding the mode

Find the mode of these race times: 9.3, 9.6, 9.2, 10.2, 9.6, 10.1, 9.5.

Find the time that occurs most often. 9.6 occurs twice

The mode of these scores is 9.6.