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Institute of Mathematics

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## **Statistical Significance: What is it?**

WMC Annual Conference  
May 5, 2016

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Mathematics Program Specialists

# Card Game

Pick a red card and win!

We will come back to this later.

# Session Goals

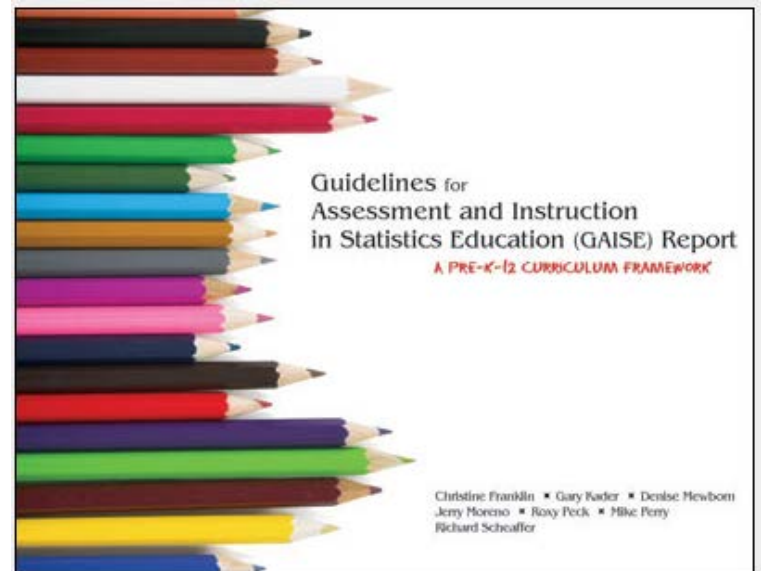
By the end of this session, you will...

- engage in the statistical problem solving process.
- develop an understanding of a progression of CCSS-M Statistics from grades 6 through 12.

# The Framework

## Statistical Problem Solving Process

- I. Formulate Questions
- II. Collect Data
- III. Analyze Data
- IV. Interpret Results



[http://www.amstat.org/education/gaise/GaiseCollege\\_full.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/education/gaise/GaiseCollege_full.pdf)

# Attend to precision.

Mathematically proficient students try to communicate precisely to others. They try to use clear definitions in discussion with others and in their own reasoning. They state the meaning of the symbols they choose, including using the equal sign consistently and appropriately. They are careful about specifying units of measure, and labeling axes to clarify the correspondence with quantities in a problem. They calculate accurately and efficiently, express numerical answers with a degree of precision appropriate for the problem context. In the elementary grades, students give carefully formulated explanations to each other. By the time they reach high school they have learned to examine claims and make explicit use of definitions.

# Memorizing Words

# Memorizing Words – I. Formulating Questions

The statistical question we will be investigating is, “Is it easier for participants to memorize words that have meaning over words that do not have meaning?”

# Memorizing Words –

## II. Collect Data

Data collection instructions:

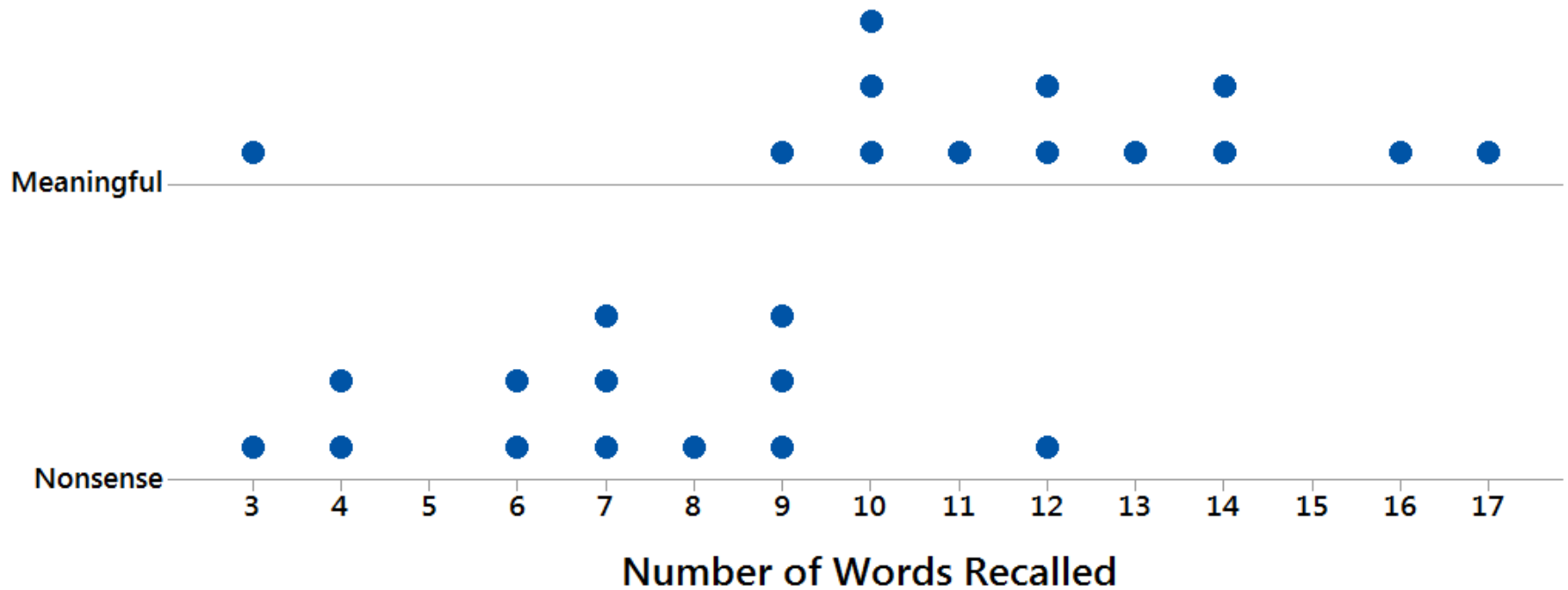
1. You will have 1 minute to study your list of words.
2. You will then turn over your list and write down as many words as you can remember on a blank sheet of paper in 1 minute.
3. You will trade papers with someone of a **non-**matching color and check how many he/she has correct.
4. Write your number correct on a matching sticky note color (blue/orange for your word list) and post on the appropriate number line.

End



# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## III. Analyze Data



# Box plot

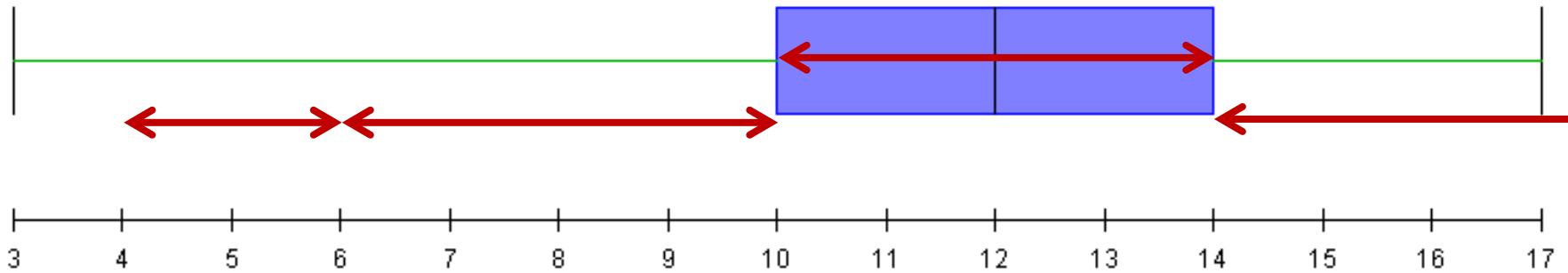
The box plot is created from dividing an ordered data set into four groups with approximately the same number of data values in each set (about one fourth).

## Five-Number Summary

- Minimum
  - First Quartile ( $Q_1$ )
  - Median
  - Third Quartile ( $Q_3$ )
  - Maximum
- 
- Interquartile Range (IQR)

# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## III. Analyze Data



Number of Correctly Recalled Words

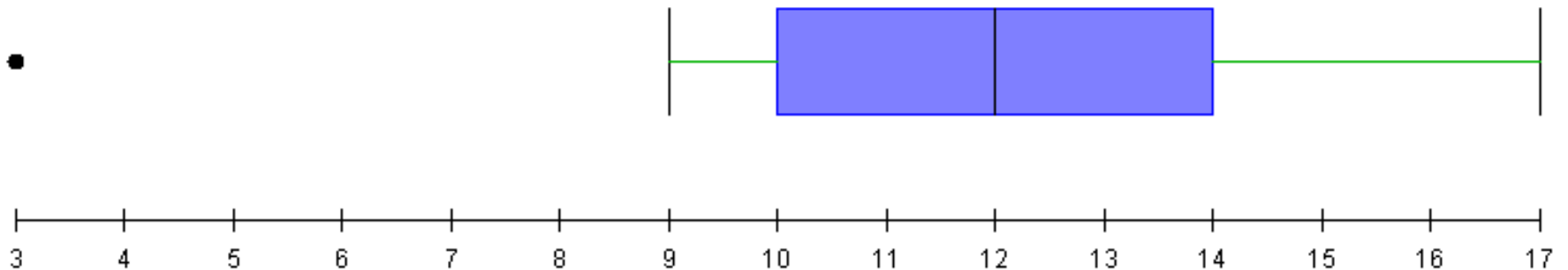
Describe the distribution.

# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## III. Analyze Data

### Marking the outlier

Meaningful Words



Number of Correctly Recalled Words

# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## III. Analyze Data

When comparing two distributions, it is important to note similarities (overlap) and differences (areas of separation).

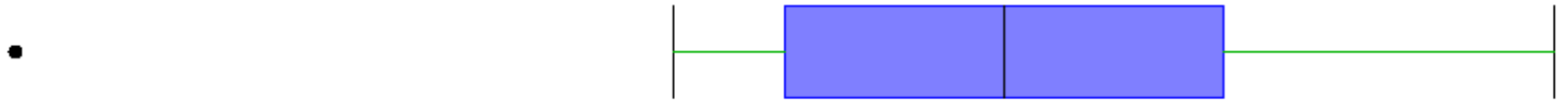
- What can you say about the similarities or overlap?
- What can you say about the differences or areas of separation?
- What conclusions might you draw?

# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

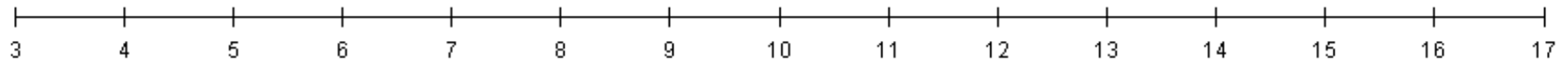
## III. Analyze Data

Turn and Talk

Meaningful Words



Nonsense Words

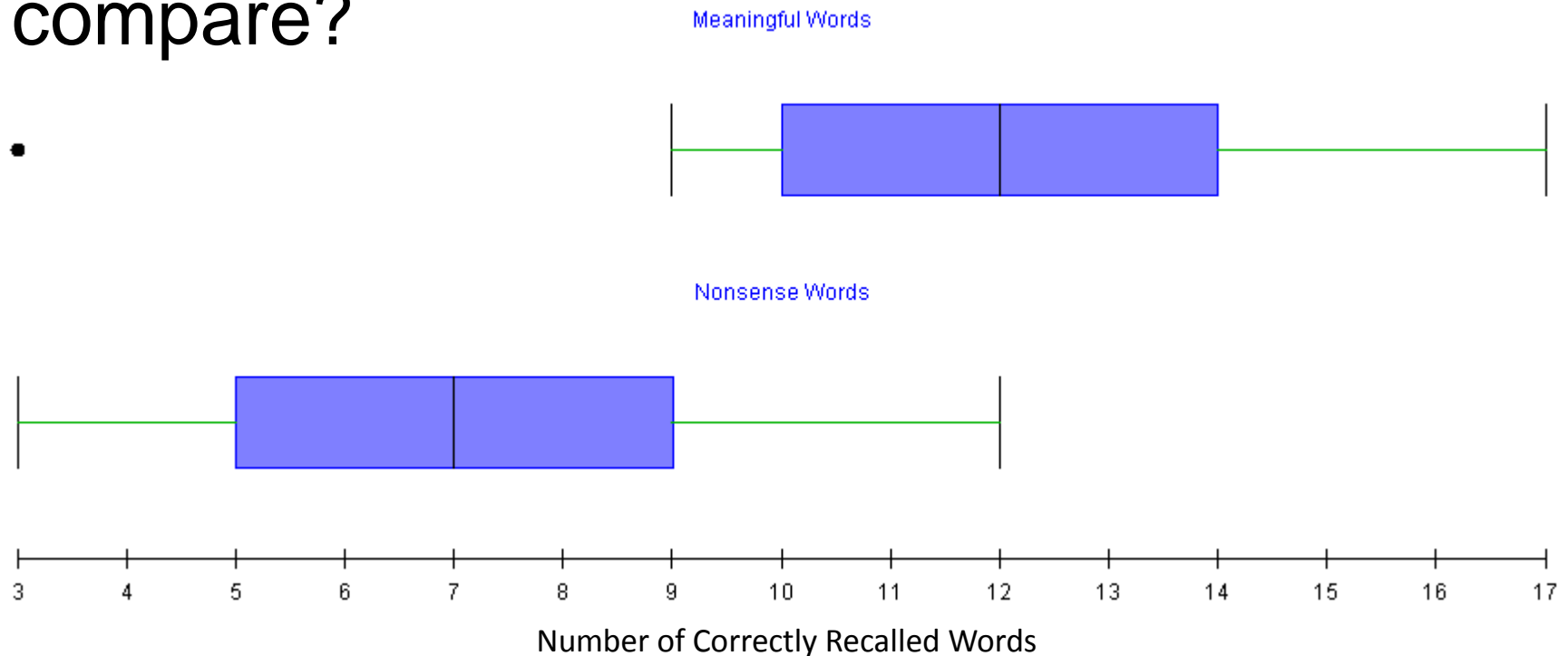


Number of Correctly Recalled Words

# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## III. Analyze Data

How do the medians for each distribution compare?



# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## IV. Interpret Results

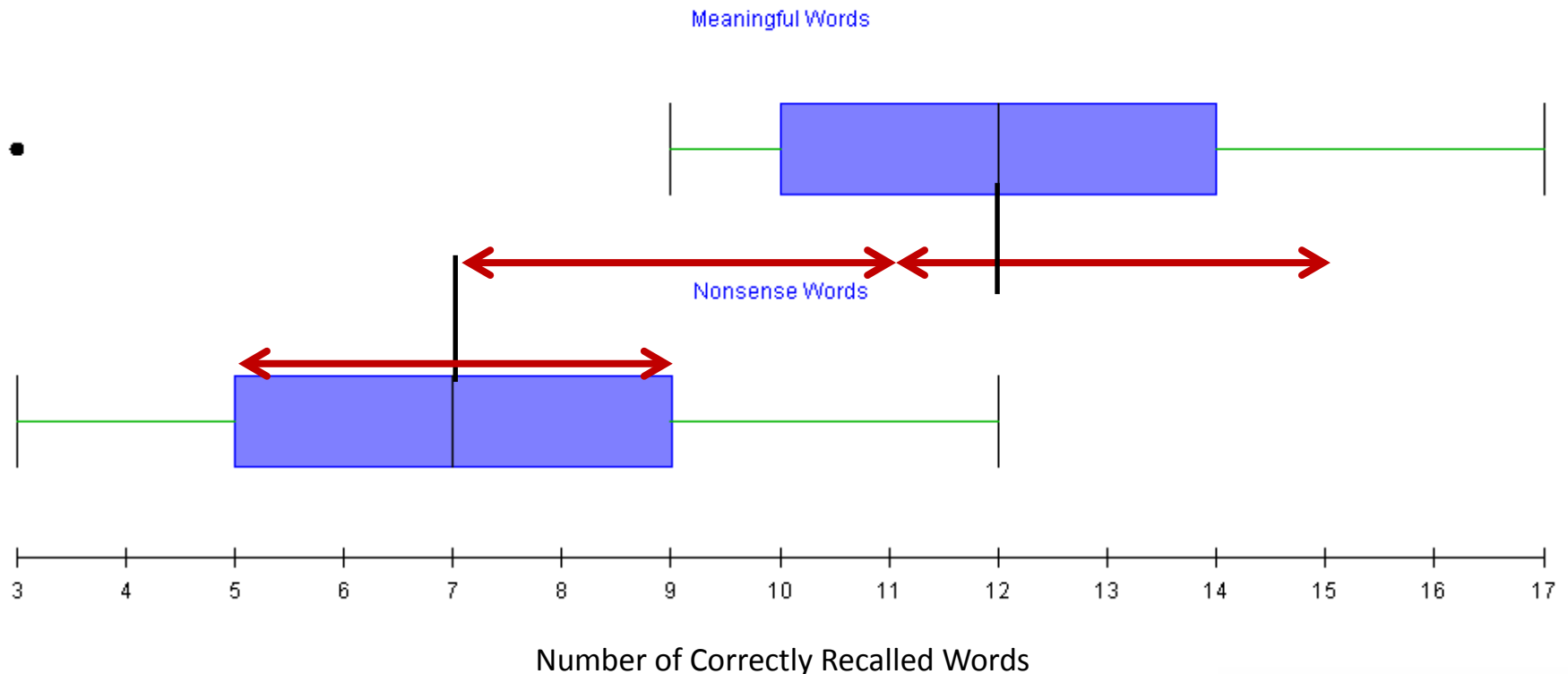
Is a difference of 5 words large enough to matter? Is this a meaningful difference or is it just not that meaningful?



# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## III. Analyze Data

How many IQRs separate the medians?



# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## III. Analyze Data

How many IQRs separate the medians?

$$\frac{\text{Median of meaningful words} - \text{median of nonsense words}}{IQR} =$$

$$\frac{12 - 7}{4} = 1.25$$

# Compare 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Data

## IV. Interpret Results

Is the difference between the medians of 5 words large enough to matter?

Is this a significant difference?

# Simulation

Assume there is no difference between the median number of meaningful words and the median number of nonsense words.

If the list a person receives does not influence how many words he/she recalls, how likely would a difference in the medians as large or larger than 5 occur purely by chance if the true difference between the medians is 0?

# Simulation Directions



With a partner, shuffle the 26 cards together and then “deal” the cards into two piles of 13 cards.

Designate one pile  $A$  (meaningful) and the other  $B$  (nonsense). Find the median of each pile.

Find the difference in the medians  
(median of meaningful  $A$  – median of nonsense  $B$ )

# Analyze the Results

## Describe the dot plot

Shape, center, spread

What do the values represent?

Where do the values center?

Does this value make sense?

# Analyze the Results

Where does the value of 5 words (actual difference between the medians) fall in this distribution?

Is this difference likely to have happened by chance if the true difference is 0?

# Simulation using Technology

<http://www.nctm.org/coremathtools/>

Core Math Tools is a downloadable suite of interactive software tools for algebra and functions, geometry and trigonometry, and statistics and probability. The tools are appropriate for use with any high school mathematics curriculum and compatible with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics in terms of content and mathematical practices. Java required.



<b>General Purpose Tools</b> CAS, Spreadsheet, Geometry, Data Analysis, and Simulation	<b>Custom Apps</b> Focused explorations of specific topics	<b>Advanced Apps</b> Focused explorations of advanced topics
<b>Sample Lessons</b> Problem-based lessons that employ <i>Core Math Tools</i>	<b>Data Sets</b> Wealth of data sets organized by data type	<b>How-To Pages</b> Help, hints and steps to do basic tasks



# Card Game: Revisited

What did the opening card game have to do with statistical significance?

When did you begin to think the game was rigged?

$$P(1 \text{ red card}) = 0.5$$

$$P(2 \text{ red cards}) = 0.5^2 = 0.25$$

$$P(3 \text{ red cards}) = 0.5^3 = 0.125$$

$$P(4 \text{ red cards}) = 0.5^4 = 0.0626$$

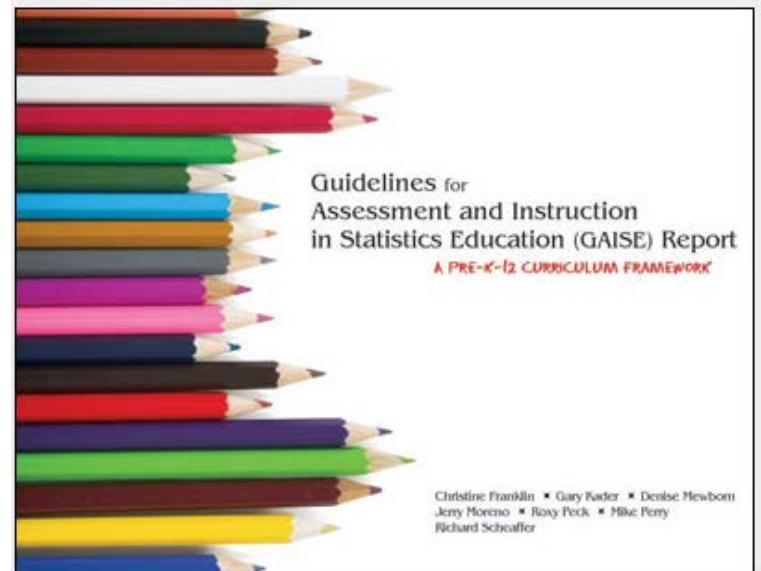
$$P(5 \text{ red cards}) = 0.5^5 = 0.03125$$

# Reflection

# The Framework

## Statistical Problem Solving Process

- I. Formulate Questions
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# CCSS Standards

How did you see the progression from middle school to high school?

# CCSS Standards

**Cluster: Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.**

7.SP.3 **Informally** assess the degree of visual overlap of two numerical data distributions with similar variabilities, measuring the difference between the centers by expressing it as a multiple of a measure of variability. *For example, the mean height of players on the basketball team is 10 cm greater than the mean height of players on the soccer team, about twice the variability (mean absolute deviation) on either team; on a dot plot, the separation between the two distributions of heights is noticeable.*

7.SP.4 Use **measures of center** and **measures of variability** for numerical data from random samples to draw **informal comparative inferences** about two populations. *For example, decide whether the words in a chapter of a seventh-grade science book are generally longer than the words in a chapter of a fourth-grade science book.*

# CCSS Standards

**Conceptual Category: Probability and Statistics**

**Domain: Interpreting Categorical and Quantitative Data**

**Cluster: Summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable**

**S-ID.2 Use statistics appropriate to the shape of the data distribution to **compare center** (median, mean) **and spread** (interquartile range, standard deviation) of two or more different data sets.**

# CCSS Standards

**Conceptual Category: Probability and Statistics**

**Domain: Making Inferences and Justifying Conclusions**

**Cluster: Make inferences and justify conclusions from sample surveys, experiments, and observational studies.**

**S-IC.5 Use data from a randomized experiment to compare two treatments; use simulations to decide if differences between parameters are significant.**

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# Closing

# Session Goals

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- develop an understanding of a progression of CCSS-M Statistics from grades 6 through 12.

“Statistical problem solving is an investigative process that involves four components.” GAISE



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**The Brookhill Institute of Mathematics** exists to raise the mathematical literacy of *every learner*.

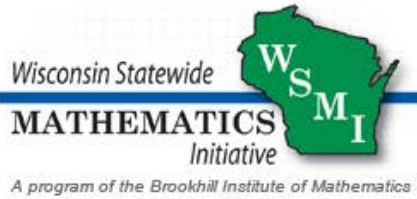
## MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to provide K-12 teachers and higher education the opportunity to participate, collaborate, develop, and improve the teaching of mathematics.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 11, 2016**  
DPI H.S. Work Group

# www.wsmi.net



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# Module Content

- K-2: Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- K-2: Number and Operations in Base Ten
- 3-5: Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- 3-5: Number and Operations Fractions
- 6-8: Ratios and Proportional Relationships
- 6-8: Expressions and Equations
- 6-8: Statistics
- 9-12: Statistics and Probability for ALL High School Mathematics Teachers
- 8-12: Algebra and Functions with Modeling

# WSMI Institutes

K-2 Operations and Algebraic Thinking  
and  
3-5 Operations and Algebraic Thinking  
are CLOSED at Greendale and  
Sauk Prairie!

3-5 Operations and Algebraic Thinking  
And  
6-8 Expressions and Equations  
are CLOSED at New London!

## Summer 2016

CESA 3

June 20-24

West Salem  
New London

July 11-15

Sauk Prairie

July 18-22

DC Everest  
Greendale

August 1-5

Thank you!



**Brookhill**  
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