

# Statement, Evidence, Context



## Key idea

A statistical paragraph has **three parts**: a **statement** (a data-based claim), **evidence** (specific numbers), and **context** (why it matters).

## Common mistake

“Pizza is good” is an **opinion**, not a statement – it cannot be checked against data.

## Example

**Statement:** Most students prefer pizza for lunch.

**Evidence:** Of 20 students, 12 chose pizza and 8 chose wraps.

**Context:** This helps the school plan menu offerings.

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# Evidence Needs Exact Numbers



## Key idea

Evidence must cite **specific figures** taken from the display – a count, a percentage, a mode, or a median. Never rely on a vague word like “many” or “most” alone.

## Example dot plot



## Reading the evidence

The mode is 2 pets – 4 of the 12 students own exactly 2.

**Evidence:** “4 of the 12 students own 2 pets, more than any other number.”

## Common mistake

“Many students own pets” – no number at all.

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# Context Explains Why It Matters



## Key idea

Context explains **why** the finding matters, to whom, or in what situation – it never just repeats the data.

## Common mistake

“We surveyed 20 students” is not context – it only restates the evidence.

## Weak vs strong context

**Weak:** “We surveyed 20 students.”

**Strong:** “This could help the school choose colours for new uniforms that most students prefer.”

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# Critique and Rewrite



## Key idea



To fix a weak paragraph: check for all **three parts**, then replace vague wording with the display's **real numbers**.

## Model rewrite



**Weak:** "I think blue is best. 10 people chose it. Blue is nice."

**Strong:** "Blue is the most popular colour, chosen by 10 of the 20 students surveyed, compared to 6 for red and 4 for green. This could help the school choose colours most students prefer."



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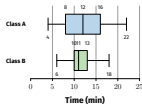
# Comparing Two Distributions



## Key idea

A comparison paragraph needs **both** the **median** (which group is typically higher) **and** the **spread**, or IQR (which group is more consistent).

## Example box plot



## Reading median and IQR

Class A's median (12) is close to Class B's (11), but Class A's IQR ( $16 - 8 = 8$ ) is far wider than Class B's ( $13 - 10 = 3$ ) – Class A's times varied much more.

## Common mistake

Comparing only the medians and ignoring the spread.



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