1056-J1-508

Stuart Boersma* (boersmas@cwu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Central Washington University, 400 East University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926, and Caren L Diefenderfer, Shannon W Dingman and Bernard L Madison. Teaching Quantitative Reasoning with the News. Preliminary report.

The daily newspaper has numerous examples illustrating the need to be able to deal critically with quantitative information in today's society. Newspaper articles provide a variety of changing contexts which emphasize the relevance of quantitative reasoning in everyone's life. Additionally, being current and relevant, newspaper articles provide students with an easy answer to the question "When will I ever use this?" By carefully choosing articles and constructing meaningful study questions, an instructor can help students investigate absolute and relative change, make sense of very large (or small) quantities, and extract information from simple mathematical models. Newspaper articles can be used in a variety of effective pedagogical settings and naturally provide numerous different contexts for student exploration, review, and assessment of basic mathematical skills. Specific examples of articles, study questions, assessment instruments, and resources for teaching such a course will be presented. (Received September 10, 2009)