

Analyzing the News

BROAD AREAS OF LEARNING: Media Literacy / Environmental Awareness

CROSS-CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES:

- Uses information
 - Solves problems
 - Uses information and communication technologies
 - Communicates appropriately
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Application Question

- **To develop Competency 2:** Uses mathematical reasoning
- **To develop Competency 3:** Communicates by using mathematical language

What's in the News?

You are a reporter for your school newspaper. You recently saw a news story entitled *Canada Takes Action On Environment* in your local newspaper. The article included several ideas for steps that people could take to help protect the environment. You believe the article revealed some interesting statistics and made some good points that would make people more aware of the role they play in preserving the environment, but it was too lengthy for the school newspaper. Your task is to write a short summary of the key points of that article (Appendix A). You also noticed that the values in the article were given in multiple forms—some decimal, some percent, some ratios—and think that it would be better if all of the values were in the same form. In your summary you must make sure that all of the numerical values are written in the same form.

? How can you summarize the news story?

Criteria for the news story summary

- Produce a concise summary of the article given.
- Change the form for values so that all values in your summary have the same form.
- Include at least 15 of the statistics given in the article in your summary.
- If you change all values to ratios, express all ratios in simplest form.
- Use a clear format for organizing your summary.

B. More than 28 000 households took part in the survey mentioned in the article. For simplicity, use 28 000 to approximate the number of households represented by each of the statistics you used in your summary that are related to the number of households. (Some data are not dependent on survey responses. Use the data that you calculate to state conclusions that you find interesting/surprising.)

Value	Number of households represented

Value	Number of households represented

C. Explain how you organized your summary.

Evaluation Criteria Checklist

- You summarized the article, selecting important pieces of information.
- You changed the form of every ratio, percent, or decimal presented in the article to a new form with an equivalent value so that all numbers in your summary have the same form.
- You included at least 15 statistics in your summary.
- You expressed all ratios in simplest form.
- You used acceptable forms of spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- You used a clear format for organizing your summary.