

OPEN AND PARALLEL TASKS FOR GRADE 8/LEVEL I

These differentiated tasks are based on the task, “Number Set” on page 21 of *Making Sense of Problem Solving: Targeting NCTM Curriculum Focal Points*, Level I/Grade 8, (2008) Teacher to Teacher Publications, Inc.

Open Task

Create a set of data with fewer than 10 numbers that could be described by using a Box and Whisker Plot. Create that plot.

Parallel Tasks

Option 1:

What is the mean, median, and mode for the set of numbers 8, 3, 9, 8? What number could you add to this data set to make the new mean be 8?

Option 2:

A set of 5 numbers, four of which are different, has a mean of 8. What could the data values be? Create a graphical representation for two or more of the possible data sets.

Notes

The Open Task has an endless set of data that could be described using a Box and Whisker Plot. Students could be asked to analyze the purpose of this data display and generalize about situations that make it meaningful to use. The parallel task Option 1 targets struggling students, and Option 2 is designed to provide more challenge.