Notes on Collecting Good Statistics

- A good statistic provides sample size
  - For example: ***30% of all teenagers text while driving***
    - <mark>Ask yourself</mark> - how many teenagers did they count? 30% of 100 is very different than 30% of 10,000

- A good statistic provides information and credentials on the parties conducting the survey
  - For example: ***60% of the 100 teenagers surveyed in 2009 admitted to driving drunk on an anonymous survey***
    - <mark>Ask yourself</mark> – According to who? What organization or group of people conducted this survey? Was the survey compared to the national average?

- A good statistic does not mislead
  - For example: ***1 in 5 16-year-olds crash their cars within the first year***
    - <mark>Ask yourself</mark> – doesn't that mean that 4 out of 5 don't crash their cars? That's actually 80% of teens who do a fine job of driving their cars safely.

What's wrong with these?

1. About half of American teens say they have been in a car while the driver was texting.
2. Car crashes are the number one killer of teens.
3. Reaching for a phone while driving increases your likelihood of getting into a crash.

Check out your class pages for links to good sites for gathering your stats!

E-mail me if you need further assistance: palr@gulliverschools.org