

Graphing Calculator Lab

Mean and Median

Main IDEA

Use technology to calculate the mean and median of a set of data.

You can more efficiently calculate the mean and median of a large set of data using a Casio CFX-9750G graphing calculator.

ACTIVITY

COMPUTERS Kendrick surveys thirty seventh-graders and asks them how many times they had to wait longer than 5 minutes during the previous week to use a computer in the school library. The results are shown below.

Number of Times a Student Had to Wait to Use the Library Computer									
5	2	9	1	1	2	1	2	5	2
3	4	2	1	4	0	4	2	2	5
4	2	2	3	2	1	3	9	5	2

Find the mean and median of the data.

STEP 1 Clear list L1 by pressing **MENU** 2 **F6** **F4** **F1**.

STEP 2 Enter the number of times students had to wait in L1. Press 5 **EXE** 2 **EXE** ... 2 **EXE**.

STEP 3 Display a list of statistics for the data by pressing **F2** **F1**.



Use the down arrow key to locate Med. The mean number of times a student waited was 3 and the median number of times was 2.

STUDY TIP

Median The median, 2 times, means that half of the students waited more than 2 times to use a computer and half waited fewer than 2 times.

ANALYZE THE RESULTS

- WRITING IN MATH** Kendrick claims that, on average, students had to wait more than 5 minutes about 3 times last week. Based on your own analysis of the data, write a convincing argument to dispute his claim. (Hint: Create and use a line plot of the data to support your argument.)
- COLLECT THE DATA** Collect some numerical data from your classmates. Then use a graphing calculator to calculate the mean and median of the data. After analyzing the data, write a convincing argument to support a claim you can make about your data.