

Activity: Interpreting Averages from Gould's Article

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*The numbers below were taken from *Women's Brains* by Stephen Jay Gould (1980).

In the article, the results of Broca's autopsies are described as follows:

The average weight of the 292 male brains was 1,325 grams while the average weight of the 140 female brains was 1,144 grams.

What other pieces of information would help us determine the accuracy of these averages?

Would it help to know any of the following? Why or why not?

1. lowest male and female weight
2. highest male and female weight
3. ages of the subjects
4. how the subjects were chosen (e.g., randomly, because they died in April, etc.)
5. causes of death of the subjects