

Pre-Algebra Handout 2:

How to Calculate the Average (Mean)

John Neral • Linda Wallace • Kim Holden

CALCULATORS: Casio: *fx-300ES* • Casio: *fx-300MS*

Rationale

With the Casio *fx-300ES*, a student can enter a list of data into a table to calculate the mean. Since the data is in table format, it is easy to revise and edit the data. While the *fx-300MS* can calculate the mean, it does not have a table display, thus making it more cumbersome to edit the data.

Problem:

Five students were polled as to how many minutes per night he/she spends on math homework. The results are displayed as follows: 22, 15, 3, 15, 34.

fx-300ES

To begin, the following key strokes should be used.

- Press **MODE** .
- Press **2** for STAT.
- Choose **1** for 1-VAR.
- Input data in table using the equals key (=) as the enter key after each piece of data is entered.
- Input the results of poll. (22, 15, 3, 15, 34)
- Press **AC** .
- Press **SHIFT 1** to activate the STAT EDITOR.
- Choose **5** for Var.
- Choose **2** for \bar{x} , which is the symbol of the mean.
- Press = . The mean 17.8, is displayed.

fx-300MS

To solve the problem, the following keystrokes should be used.

- Press **MODE**.
- Press **2** for SD (Standard Deviation).
- Always start data input with **SHIFT CLEAR 1** to clear statistical memory.
- Press = .
- Input 22 using the key sequence. **22 DT**.
- Continue with the data from the problem (15, 3, 15, 34).
- Once you press the DT key to enter a piece of data, you can press the DT key again to input the number without re-typing the number. So, for example, once you enter 15, hit the DT key twice.
- After entering the data, press **AC**.
- To calculate the mean, press **SHIFT 2** (Statistical Variance) followed by 1 for \bar{x} and then = . The mean 17.8 is displayed.