

January 6, 2014

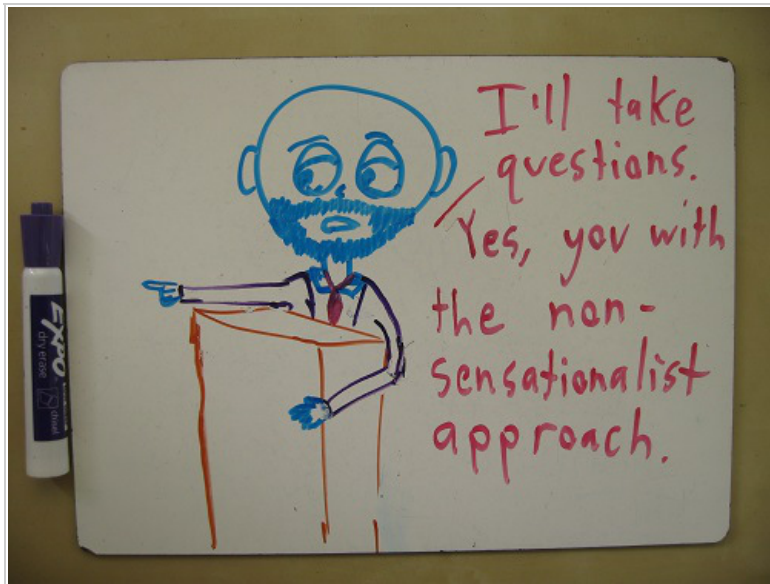


What Headlines Would Look Like If We Lived in a Mathematically Literate World

Posted: 12/04/2013 5:51 pm

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Our World: *Market Rebounds after Assurances from Fed Chair*
Mathematically Literate World: *Market Rebounds after Regression to the Mean*



Our World: *Firm's Meteoric Rise Explained by Daring Strategy, Bold Leadership*
Mathematically Literate World: *Firm's Meteoric Rise Explained by Good Luck, Selection Bias*

Our World: *Gas Prices Hit Record High (Unadjusted for Inflation)*
Mathematically Literate World: *Gas Prices Hit Record High (In a Vacuum, Meaningless Sense)*

Our World: *Psychologists Tout Surprising New Findings*
Mathematically Literate World: *Psychologists Promise to Replicate Surprising New Findings Before Touting Them*

Our World: *After Switch in Standardized Tests, Scores Drop*
Mathematically Literate World: *After Switch in Standardized Tests, Scores No Longer Directly Comparable*

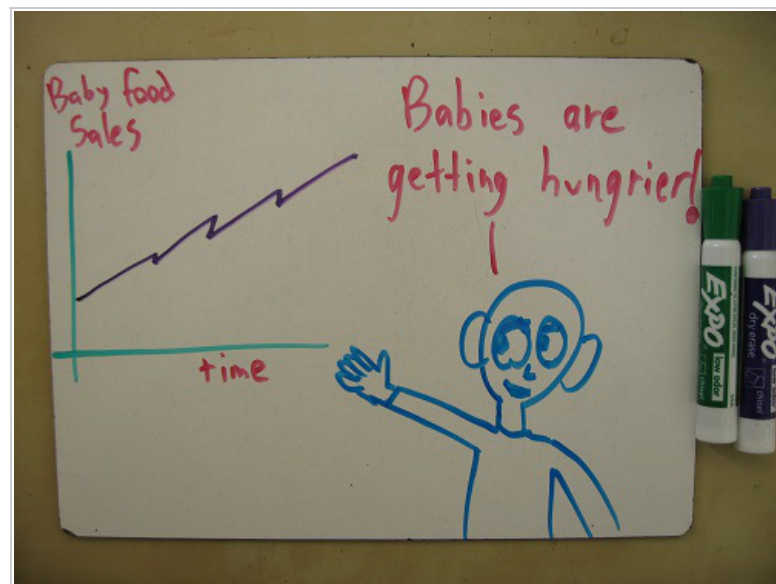
Our World: *Controversial Program Would Cost \$50 Million in Taxpayer Money*
Mathematically Literate World: *Controversial Program Would Cost 0.0001 Percent of Taxpayer Money*

Our World: *Proposal Would Tax \$250,000-Earners at 40 Percent*
Mathematically Literate World: *Proposal Would Tax \$250,000-Earners' Very Last Dollar, and That Dollar Alone, at 40 Percent*

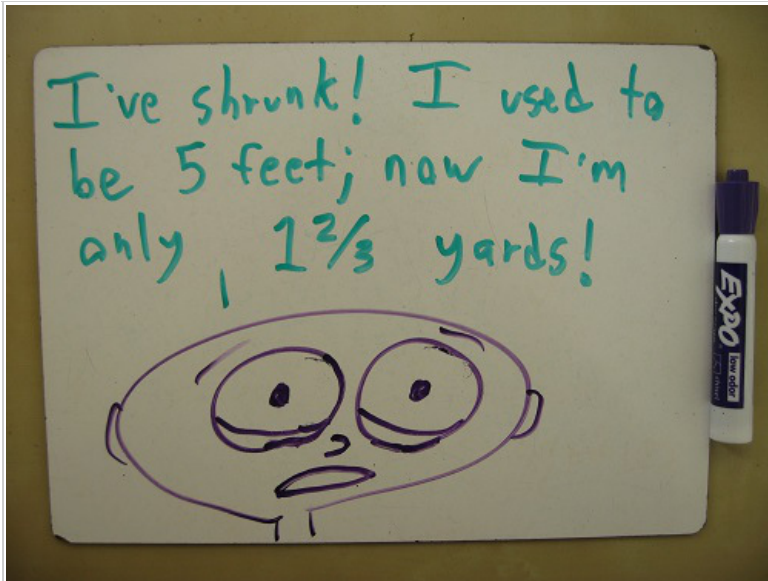
Our World: *Poll Finds 2016 Candidates Neck and Neck*
Mathematically Literate World: *Poll Finds 2016 Predictions Futile, Absurd*

Our World: *One Dead in Shark Attack; See Tips for Shark Safety Inside*
Mathematically Literate World: *One Dead in Tragic, Highly Unlikely Event; See Tips for Something Useful Inside*

Our World: *Local Heat Wave Seen as Sign of*



Our World: *Global Warming*
Mathematically Literate World: *Local Heat Wave Not Seen as Meaningful Indicator of Global Trends*



Our World: Veteran Baseball Player Enjoys Breakout Month

Mathematically Literate World: Veteran Baseball Player Enjoys Transient Good Fortune

Our World: Market Share for Electric Cars Triples

Mathematically Literate World: Market Share for Electric Cars Rises to 0.4 Percent

Our World: Still No Scientific Consensus on Global Warming

Mathematically Literate World: Still 90 Percent Scientific Consensus on Global Warming

Our World: Rates of Cancer Approach Historic High

Mathematically Literate World: Rates of Surviving Long Enough to Develop Cancer Approach Historic High

Our World: Hollywood Breaks Box Office Records with Explosions, Rising Stars

Mathematically Literate World: Hollywood Breaks Box Office Records with Inflation, Rising Population

Our World: Economist: "Eliminate Minimum Wage to Create Jobs, Improve Economy"

Mathematically Literate World: Economist: "Eliminate Minimum Wage, then Pray Our Model Has Some Basis in Reality"

Our World: Average Football Player Earns \$3 Million, Lasts 4 Years in NFL

Mathematically Literate World: Average Football Player Earns \$0 Million, Lasts 4 Years in High School

Our World: Politician Promises to Fund Math Education

Mathematically Literate World: Politician Promises to Fund, Meddle in Math Education

Our World: Illegal Downloaders Would Have Spent \$300 Million to Obtain Same Music Legally

Mathematically Literate World: Illegal Downloaders Probably Would Not Have Bothered to Obtain Same Music Legally

Our World: Unemployment Rate Jumps From 7.6 Percent to 7.8 Percent

Mathematically Literate World: Unemployment Rate Probably a Little Under 8 Percent; Maybe Rising, or Not, Can't Really Tell

Thanks for reading! If you can tolerate my drawings (a big "if"), you might also enjoy *A Math Professor Consults on a Hollywood Movie* and the economic satire *20 Steps for Trading Up from a Paper Clip to a House*.

This first appeared on mathwithbaddrawings.com. You could also check out *Fifty-Five Million*, my new blog that aims to bring a math-literate perspective to education statistics.

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