

Practice: Sampling Principles

1. Identify each population.
 - a) Parking for students at urban high schools is limited.
 - b) Vet bills for older cats are higher than for young cats.
 - c) The average grade 9 science mark on the report cards this term was 78%.
 - d) Getting 30 minutes of exercise each day improves overall health.
2. Would you use a census or a sample to answer each question?
 - a) Who is expected to win the next provincial election?
 - b) What is the average life, in hours, of a particular brand of light bulb?
 - c) What is the most popular brand of running shoe worn by students in your class?
 - d) The relationship between an adult's height and shoe size.
3. Suppose you wanted to know how students at your school travel to school. Describe how you would select a systematic random sample to collect data.
4. The principal at a school places a suggestion box outside the main office to find out students' opinions about a new school policy.
 - a) What is the population?
 - b) What sampling method is being used?
 - c) Explain why the sample is biased.
5. Frieda wants to know how many grade 9 students have a part-time job.
 - a) What is the population?
 - b) How could Frieda select a sample to survey?
6. Which type of sample is used? Is the sample likely to be biased?
 - a) The principal asks five randomly selected students from each home class how they feel about a new school policy.
 - b) A polling firm uses a random number system to select households. A member of each household selected is asked whether they plan to take a vacation this year.