

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

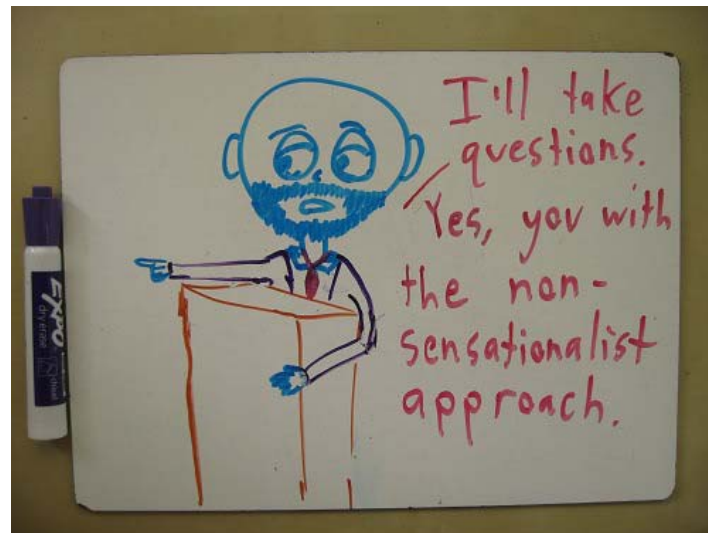
Ben Orlin Math teacher, tutor, artist

Posted: 12/04/2013 5:51 pm

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ben-orlin/what-headlines-would-look-like_b_4386621.html

Our World: *Market Rebounds after Assurances from Fed Chair*

Mathematically Literate World: *Market Rebounds after Regression to the Mean*

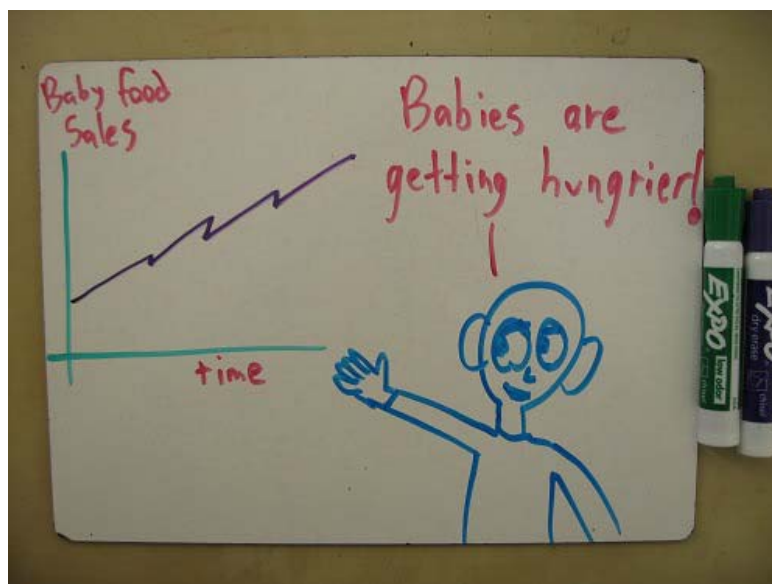


Our World: *Firm's Meteoric Rise Explained by Daring Strategy, Bold Leadership*

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 Vacuous, Meaningless Sense)*

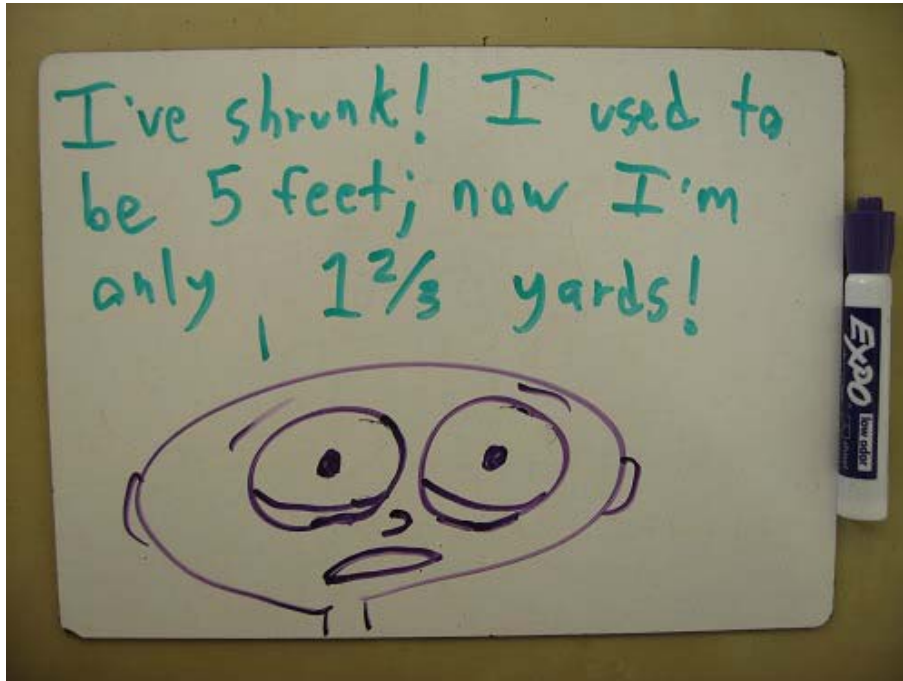


Our World: *Psychologists Tout Surprising New Findings*

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*

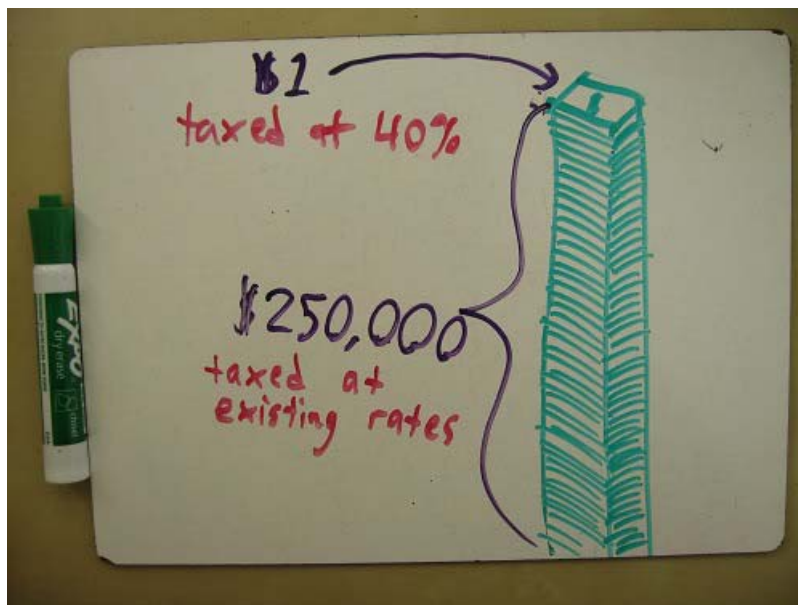


Our World: *Controversial Program Would Cost \$50 Million in Taxpayer Money*

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*

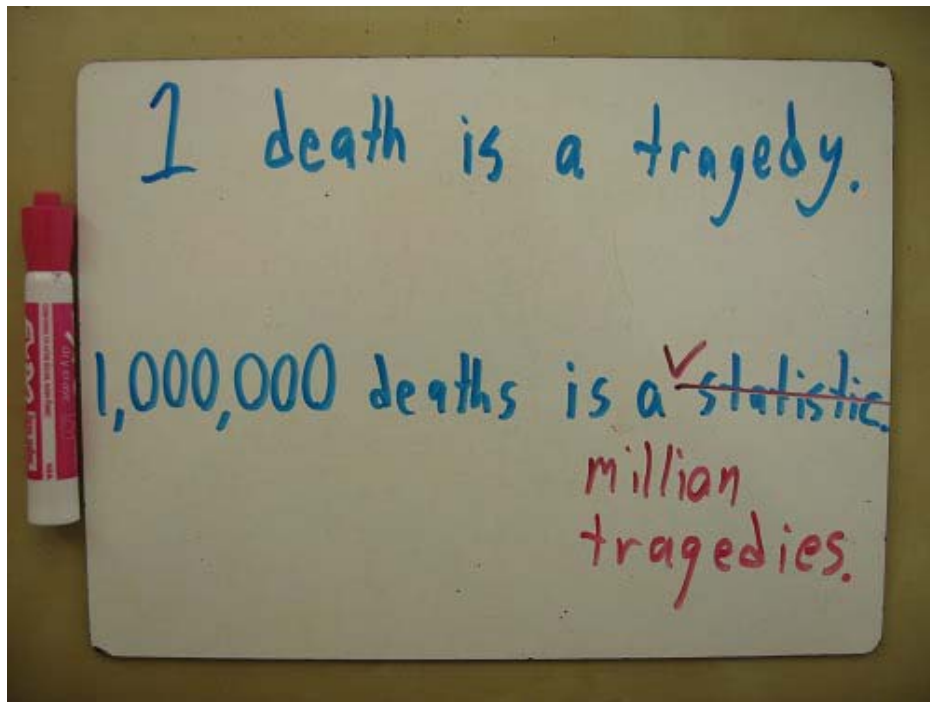


Our World: *Poll Finds 2016 Candidates Neck and Neck*

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 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*

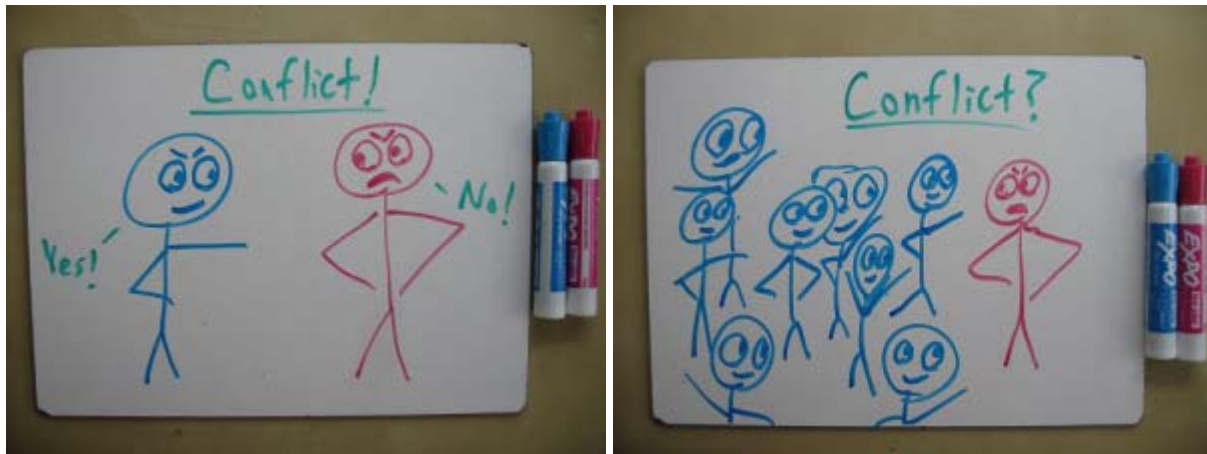


Our World: *Market Share for Electric Cars Triples*

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*

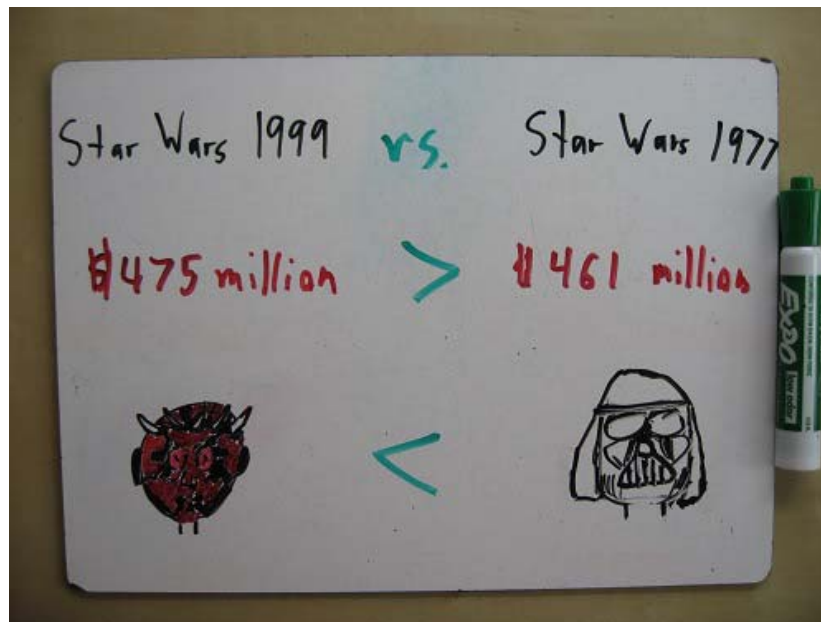


Our World: *Rates of Cancer Approach Historic High*

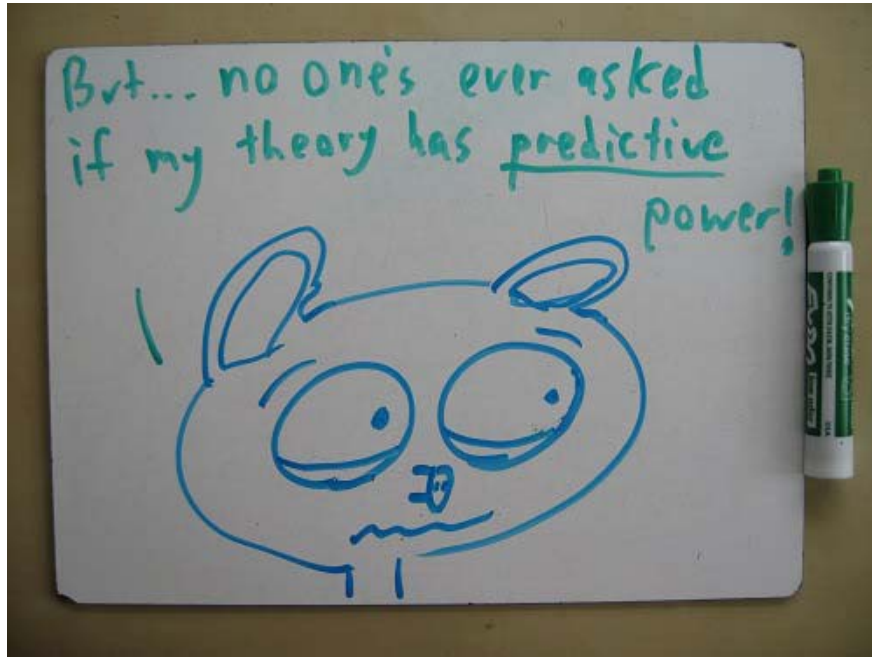
Mathematically Literate World: *Rates of Surviving Long Enough to Develop Cancer Approach Historic High*

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

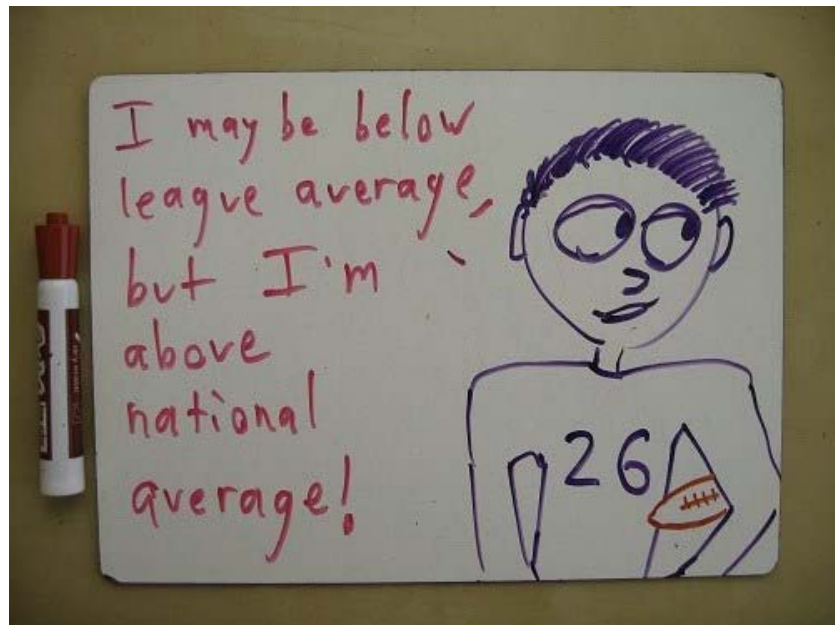
Mathematically Literate World: *Hollywood Breaks Box Office Records with Inflation, Rising Population*



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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