

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

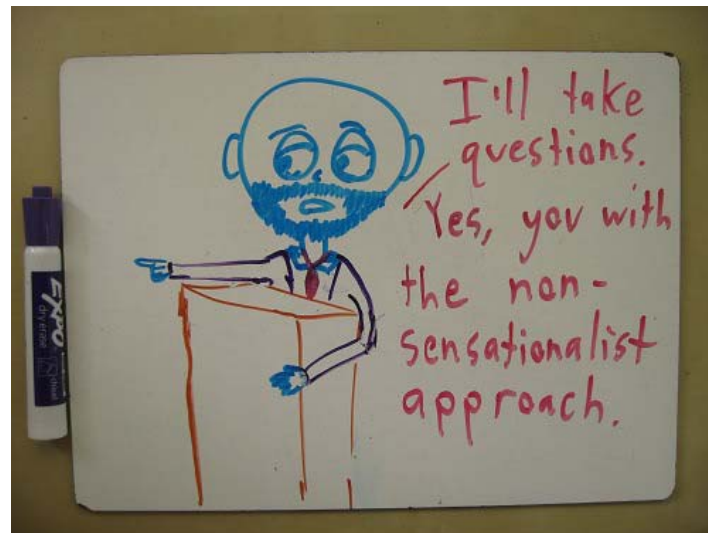
**Ben Orlin** Math teacher, tutor, artist

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[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ben-orlin/what-headlines-would-look-like\\_b\\_4386621.html](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*

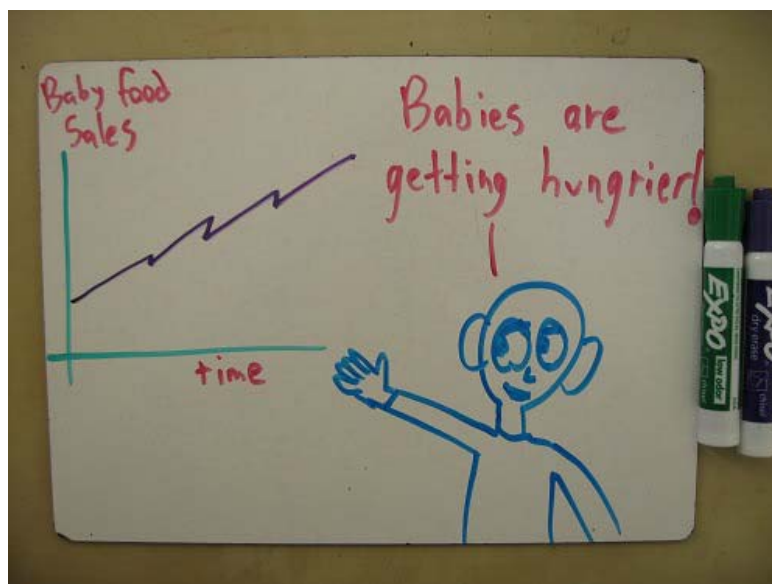


**Our World:** *Firm's Meteoric Rise Explained by Daring Strategy, Bold Leadership*

**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)*

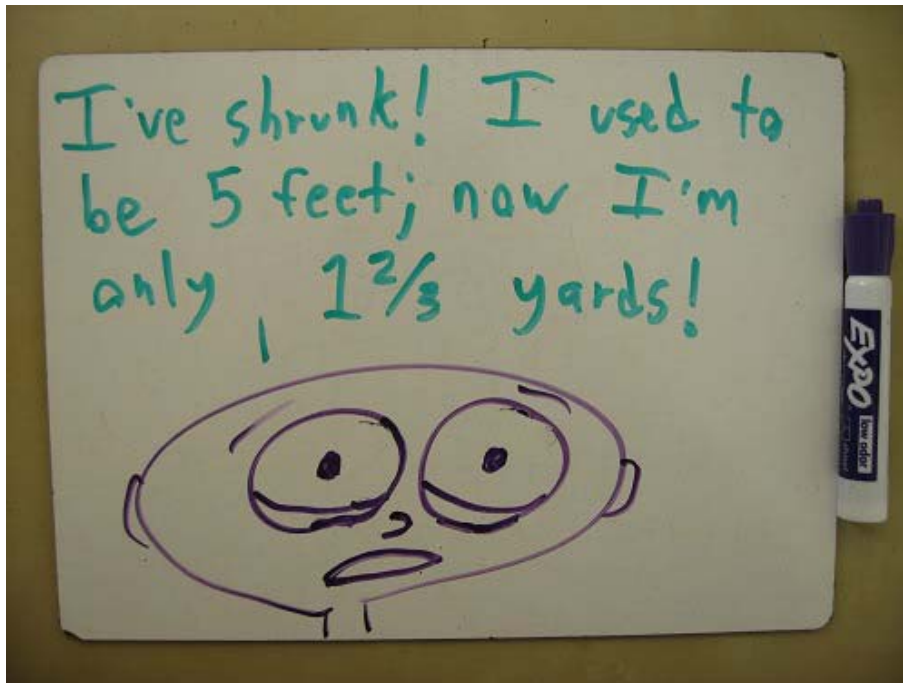


**Our World:** *Psychologists Tout Surprising New Findings*

**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*

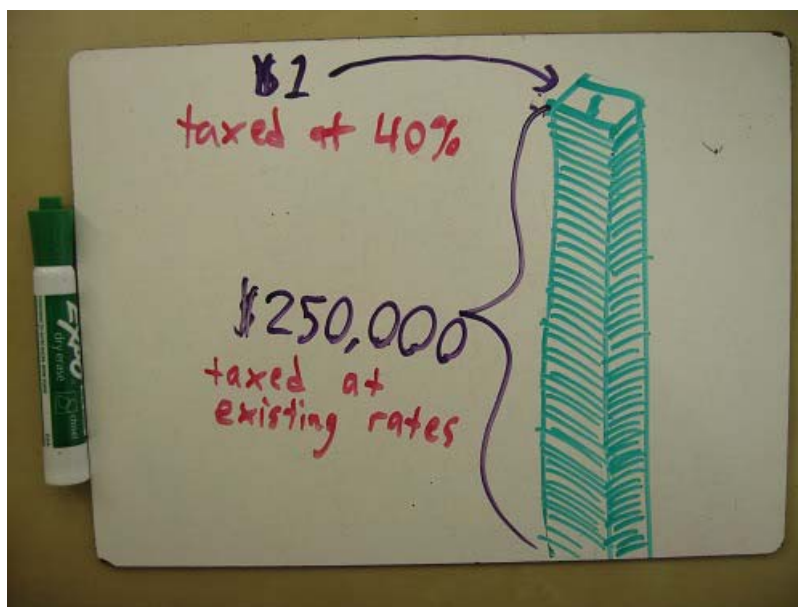


**Our World:** *Controversial Program Would Cost \$50 Million in Taxpayer Money*

**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*

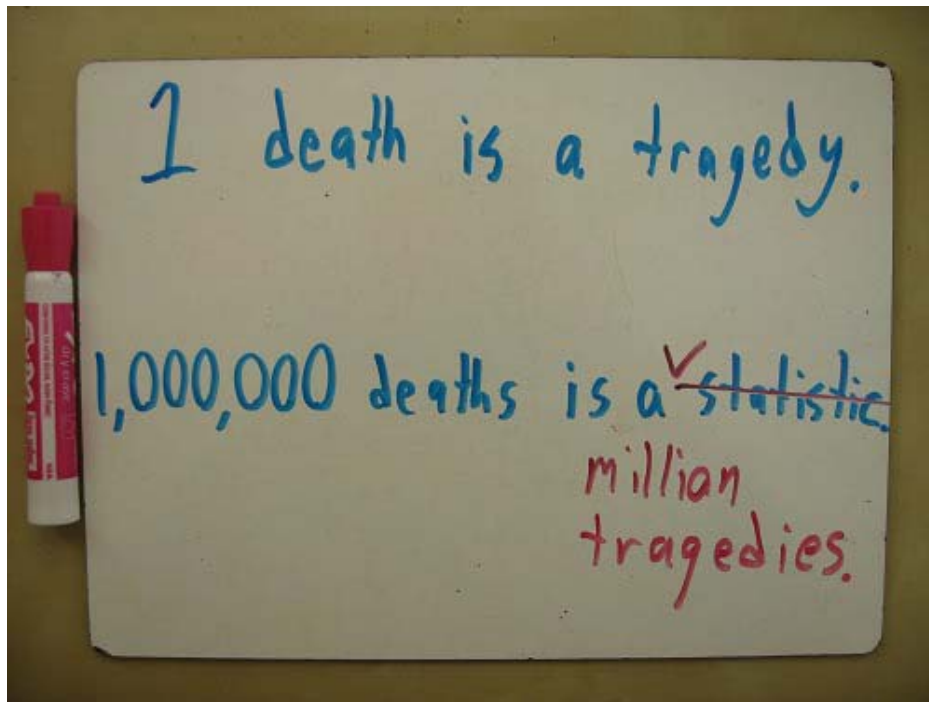


**Our World:** *Poll Finds 2016 Candidates Neck and Neck*

**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*

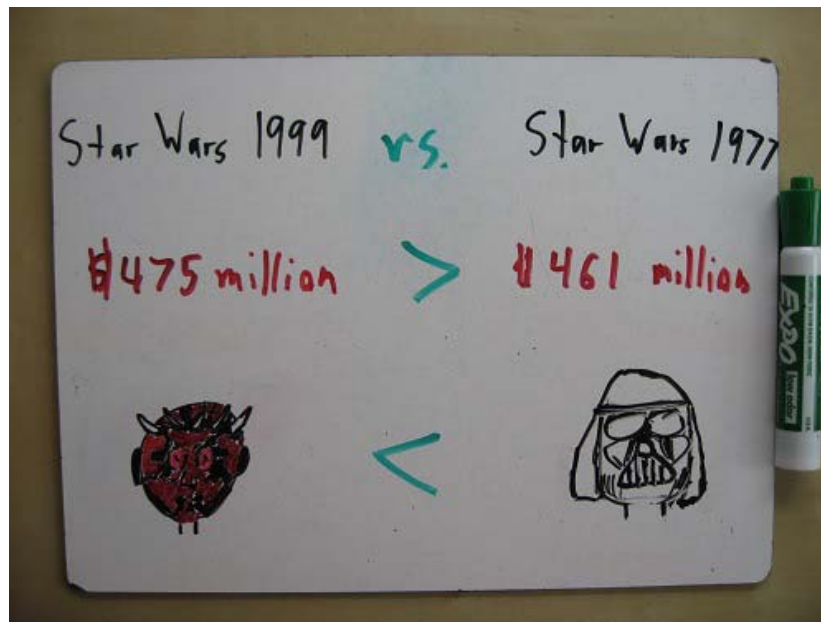


**Our World:** *Rates of Cancer Approach Historic High*

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

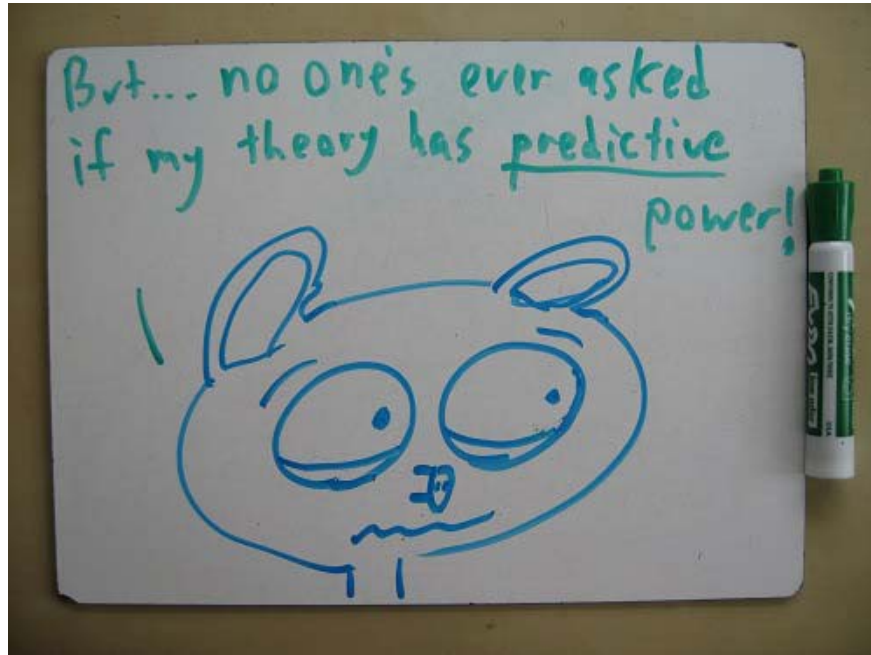
**Our World:** *Hollywood Breaks Box Office Records with Explosions, Rising Stars*

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

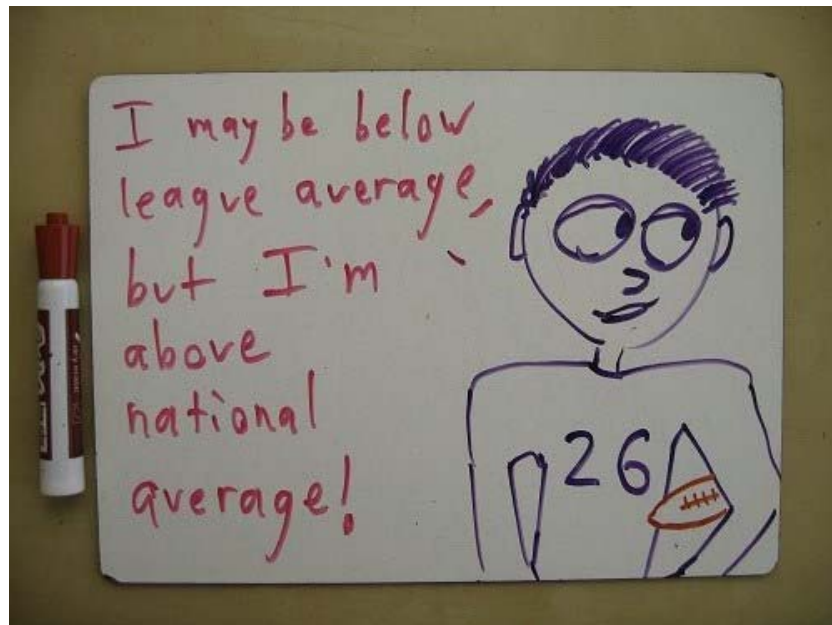




**Our World:** *Economist: "Eliminate Minimum Wage to Create Jobs, Improve Economy"*  
**Mathematically Literate World:** *Economist: "Eliminate Minimum Wage, then Pray Our Model Has Some Basis in Reality"*



**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](http://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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