



# Media Clips

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In the NCTM's *Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics* (1989, 140–41), Standard 2 for grades 9–12 includes the following information:

[A]ll students need extensive experience listening to, reading about, writing about, speaking about, reflecting on, and demonstrating mathematical ideas. . . . Providing opportunities for discussions about issues, people, and the cultural implications of mathematics reinforces student understanding of the connection between mathematics and our society. . . . Assignments that require students to read mathematics and respond both orally and in writing to questions based on their reading should be an integral part of the 9–12 mathematics program.

Material for the experiences suggested by Standard 2 can be found in many places. One of the most current, readily available, and abundant sources is the print media of the United States and

Canada. "Media Clips" will be a monthly department devoted to articles about, and references to, mathematics that teachers have found and used in their classrooms in various ways to implement Standard 2. Even cartoons will find their way into this department, some just for a smile and others to illustrate a genuine mathematics problem.

We welcome and encourage submissions to this department, which will comprise resources that teachers can use immediately or file away for future use. The assignments generated by these entries may range from starters for an entire class to full-blown projects that are optional. Each lesson, though, should help convince our students that mathematics is useful, current, and newsworthy. Please send submissions to Media Clips, *Mathematics Teacher*, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091-1593.

## 'Peanuttiest' News Letter Butters Up Fans of Spread

Americans are expected to eat enough peanut butter this year to fill the Grand Canyon . . . per capita consumption has climbed to 3.36 pounds, which should boost total U.S. consumption to 857 million pounds this year, said the newsletter, published by the Peanut Advisory Board, an industry group in Atlanta.

*Watertown Daily Times*,  
21 January 1993  
Submitted by **Meg Clemens**,  
Northwest Tech,  
Ogdensburg, New York

1. Use the data given in the excerpt to the left to verify or dispute the claim made about the Grand Canyon and the consumption of peanut butter in the United States.

## Mention Lawyers' Salaries and You Stir Debate

*San Diego Union-Tribune*,  
8 August 1993  
Submitted by **Jane Friedman**,  
University of San Diego,  
San Diego, California

2. Has the term *median* been defined correctly in the excerpt to the right?
3. In his comment about more people being at or below the median, is Montjoy confusing the *mean* with the *median*? Did he mean to say *mean*?

Lawyers at the top of their profession earn more than \$1 million a year, while the typical attorney makes almost \$67,000—far more than the average American. . . . According to census figures, lawyers and judges earned a median pay of \$66,784 in 1991, which means that half of them made more than that amount and half made less. . . . However R. Wilson Montjoy II of Jackson, Miss. said, "Most good lawyers I know work much longer hours than the average American working person." Montjoy, who represents oil and gas producers, said in Mississippi, "We have lots more people at or below the median than above it."

