

Math 9

Name: _____

8.1 – Potential Problems with Collecting Data

Date: _____

When we collect data for a survey, the data itself can be affected by bias or the way that it is presented or recorded.

There are several factors that can lead to problems with data collection.

Bias The wording of the question influences a response in favour of, or against, the topic of the data collection.

Example:

Use of The use of particular language in the question may lead people to a certain answer.

Language **Example:**

Timing **When** the data is collected could lead to biased results.

Example:

Privacy

If the question is too personal, a person may not want to participate or may give a false answer.

Example:

**Cultural
Sensitivity**

Cultural Sensitivity means that you are aware of other cultures/beliefs. Avoid being offensive or asking questions that do not apply to that culture.

Example:

Ethics

Collected data must not be used for purposes other than those told to the participants.

Example:

Cost

How expensive is it to collect the data? Is it worth it?

Time

How long will it take to collect and sort the data?

In the following examples, discuss potential problems and how they may be corrected.

1. A survey is conducted to find out if citizens think that the local government should provide more money for youth activities.

The questions asked was: ***“Would you support an increase in taxes to create more skate parks?”***

2. A survey is conducted to find the level of school spirit. Students are polled about their level of school spirit after the Basketball team wins the Provincial Championships.

3. A local Inuit group is planning to open a store in Vancouver that would sell traditional Inuit Crafts. To ensure that Vancouver is the best place for their business, the group wants to survey all households to find out how popular Inuit Crafts are. Explain why this is problematic.

4. Judy wants to find out if there is a relationship between household income and how much people spend on Christmas presents.