Sample Newsroom Math Test

1. Last year's town budget was $38,325,198. This year, you're told, the budget will be 3 percent smaller. What will this year's budget be, to the nearest dollar?

2. The town’s Parks and Recreation budget was cut from $2.4 million to $1.2 million. What was the percentage change?

3. In a loose crowd, each person takes up about 10 square feet. What is the best estimate of how many people gathered for a protest demonstration that loosely filled a plaza that measures 100 yards by 40 yards?

4. You are doing a story about a fatal shooting last night. The police report says the victim was born on April 21, 1948. How old was the victim?

5. About one out of 12 residents of your city speaks Spanish. About what percent of the population speaks Spanish?

6. Your city of 152,000 residents had a total of 22 murders last year. What was the murder rate per 100,000?

7. An oil tanker hit a rock offshore from your city and spilled about 170,000 gallons of crude oil. You want to make that volume relevant to your readers by saying how many backyard swimming pools (which hold about 12,000 gallons) it would take to hold that much oil. About how many swimming pools would the spilled oil fill?

8. Your city has a property tax rate of $13.50 per $1,000 assessed value (but the first $25,000 of the home value isn’t taxed because of the state's homestead exemption.) What would be the tax bill for a typical homeowner if the median assessed value of homes is $182,000?

9. The city managers in five towns in your circulation area are paid $76,000, $68,000, $83,000, $122,000 and $65,000 a year. What is their average salary and median salary?

10. Last year's police and fire budget for your town was $14.83 million. This year it's $14.96 million. What was the percentage change?

Samples from Question Bank

The town’s Parks and Recreation budget went from $3,898,000 to $3,303,000. What was the percentage change?

The town’s Parks and Recreation budget went from $3,737,000 to $3,014,000. What was the percentage change?

The town’s Parks and Recreation budget went from $3,237,000 to $3,180,000. What was the percentage change?

About 2 out of every 7 residents of your city speaks Spanish. About what percent of the population speaks Spanish?

About 1 out of every 19 residents of your city speaks Spanish. About what percent of the population speaks Spanish?

About 3 out of every 20 residents of your city speaks Spanish. About what percent of the population speaks Spanish?

Your city of 144,000 residents had a total of 39 murders last year. What was the murder rate per 100,000?

Your city of 117,000 residents had a total of 40 murders last year. What was the murder rate per 100,000?

Your city of 144,000 residents had a total of 60 murders last year. What was the murder rate per 100,000?

Last year's town budget was $38,917,000. This year, you're told, the budget will be 3.4% smaller. What will this year's budget be, to the nearest dollar?

Last year's town budget was $31,668,000. This year, you're told, the budget will be 4.8% smaller. What will this year's budget be, to the nearest dollar?

Last year's town budget was $39,207,000. This year, you're told, the budget will be 0.2% larger. What will this year's budget be, to the nearest dollar?