

STATISTICS  
**MAKING**  
A BAR GRAPH

# What

## Make a bar graph

by Carli Entin

If you pay attention to the news, chances are you've seen stories about scary topics such as terrorism, the not-so-great state of the economy, and drug abuse. Closer to home, young people often have to deal with difficult issues like divorce, school violence, and acceptance by their friends.

Danny Mazzamuto, 13, from Old Bridge, New Jersey, says his biggest worry is school violence and "other kids—the ones that are bigger and more dangerous; the ones that will do stupid things in the future."

For Katie Spencer, also 13, from Madison, Alabama, the war in Iraq was very stressful. She told *MATH*, "My friends had family members over there, and I was wondering if they were okay."

We all have fears and serious concerns. How can you cope with them? Dr. Adele Brodtkin, an expert psychologist, suggests talking over your troubles with those you are close to. She says, "It's good to have support systems in your life. Seek the advice of an adult you trust." Dr. Brodtkin also recommends not letting your worries control you. "We have to get on with our lives," she told *MATH*. "Do what you enjoy—being part of a sports team, taking up photography, playing in a band, or whatever is rewarding personally—so you have rich, full lives."



# Troubles Teens?

to see what issues concern teenagers the most.

## WHAT TO DO

Now make a bar graph to see what students in grades 6 to 12 are most concerned about.

The chart to the right lists nine issues from a national survey of 37,000 students, and the number of students who said they were "very concerned" about each issue. Answer questions 1 to 3. Then use the chart to make a bar graph.

**1.** Look at the blank bar graph. If you labeled the horizontal axis with each of the nine issues, what information would you use to label the vertical axis?

- (A) Years the survey was taken
- (B) Number of students
- (C) Numbers 1 to 9

**2.** By how much should the numbers increase between each line on the vertical axis?  
(A) 1,000 (B) 500 (C) 5,000

**3.** How many bars will you need on the graph to represent the data?  
(A) 37,000 bars (B) 9 bars (C) 6 bars

### Now, make the bar graph:

- ✓ Decide how much the numbers should increase between each line on the "Number of Students" axis. (Use your answer from #2.)
- ✓ Write numbers along the vertical axis.
- ✓ Write each issue along the horizontal axis.
- ✓ Give your graph a title.
- ✓ Round each group of students to the nearest thousand. Draw a bar showing the rounded number of students for each issue.

## NUMBER OF GRADE 6 TO 12 STUDENTS (OUT OF 37,000 SURVEYED) WHO ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

ISSUE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ECONOMY	5,180
WAR/TERRORISM	17,760
DRUGS	12,580
ACCEPTANCE BY OTHERS	9,620
FAMILY	23,310
SCHOOL	19,240
VIOLENCE	12,950
MONEY	15,170
RELATIONSHIP ISSUES	9,620

SOURCE: USA WEEKEND 16TH ANNUAL TEEN SURVEY, FALL 2002. STUDENTS COULD GIVE MULTIPLE RESPONSES.

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_



