

Distribution Shapes

On the following pages are histograms that represent the distributions for different types of measurements. Your task is to look at the shape of each histogram and then sort the graphs into piles so that the graphs in each pile have a similar shape.

TASK A

1. Get into a group of 3 or 4 people.
2. Separate out all of the graphs by cutting or tearing.
3. Work with each other in the group to create piles of graphs that have the same shape.

TASK B

Once you are satisfied, as groups, with the placement of the graphs into piles, do the following for each pile of graphs.

1. Select one graph from each pile that you think is the most typical example of graphs in a pile.
2. Decide on a word or phrase that can be used to label each pile. The name should try to capture some feature that is typical of all the graphs in a pile.
3. Write a short description of two or three characteristics that define the graphs in each pile. See if you can come up with characteristics that help you distinguish the graphs in one pile from another pile.

Once each group has finished with their descriptions, they will be asked to present their findings. We will see what each group has come up with and compare similarities and differences.

(Resource adapted from the 'Distributions Activity' Tools for Teaching & Assessing Statistical Inference Joan Garfield, Bob delMas (Uni of Minnesota) & Beth Chance (Cal Poly State Uni)













