

Debatable Numbers

1. Consider the following table of data.

Borough	Median Household Income	Mean Household Income	Percentage in Poverty
The Bronx	\$34,156	\$46,298	27.1%
Brooklyn	\$41,406	\$60,020	21.9%
Manhattan	\$64,217	\$121,549	17.6%
Queens	\$53,171	\$67,027	12.0%
Staten Island	\$66,985	\$81,498	9.8%

Your friend María says “the data in this table indicates that people in Staten Island are wealthier than people in Manhattan because only 9.8% of Staten Island residents are living in poverty as opposed to 17.6% in Manhattan.”

Using the same table of data to support your claim, give one argument explaining why María is wrong.

2. Consider the following table of data.

	Population in 2000	Population in 2010
New York	8,175,133	8,346,811
Los Angeles	3,792,820	3,891,433

Your friend Desmond says “according to the numbers in this table, New York grew faster than LA from 2000 to 2010. Their population increased by 171,678 people whereas Los Angeles’ population only went up by 98,613 people.”

Using the same table of data to support your claim, give one argument explaining why Desmond is wrong.