**Lesson: Statistical Questions**

6.SP.1 Recognize a statistical question as one that anticipates variability in the data related to the question and accounts for it in the answers. *For example, “How old am I?” is not a statistical question, but “How old are the students in my school?” is a statistical question because one anticipates variability in students’ ages.*

**Lesson Launch:** Students respond to the following in math journals or verbally.

1. How long does it take students in our class to come to school every day? Provide the time in minutes.
2. What is our class’s favorite color?
3. What kind of music do 6th graders like to listen to?
4. How many hours a week do students in our class exercise?

**Lesson Tasks**

1. Discuss students’ answers to the lesson launch. Explain that the questions are statistical because they can **generate a variety of answers** and they are an important part of statistics.
2. **Questions for Sorting**

* Students (individuals, pairs, or groups) cut out the questions and sort them into 2 categories; *Statistical* and *Non-Statistical*. Be able to explain reasoning.
* Whole class discussion of the sorting activity, clarifying misconceptions
* Modify non-statistical questions, making them statistical questions (small group or whole class)
* The correct sort can then be glued into math journals/interactive notebooks

**Lesson Closure** (can be used as a journal response or exit ticket)

Display:

“How many pets are owned by the students in sixth grade?”

Is this question statistical or non-statistical? Jonas responded that it is statistical and Mary responded that it is non-statistical. Who is correct and why? Support your answer.

**Homework**

*Statistical and Non-Statistical Questions Homework*