

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**OFFICE OF MATHEMATICS**

Penny Booth, Coordinator

Pat Baltzley, Supervisor

**SAMPLE PERFORMANCE TASK**

**NCAA BASKETBALL WINNING AND LOSING**

Written by:

John W. Staley

NCAA BASKETBALL  
WINNING AND LOSING

**Core Learning Goal 3: Data Analysis and Probability**

**Learning Outcomes**

- 3.2.1: The student will make informed decisions and predictions based upon data from research.
- 3.2.2: The student will make predictions by finding and using a line of best fit.

**Lesson Objective:** The student will create a scatter plot, fit a line to a set of data and write the equation of the line to predict outcomes.

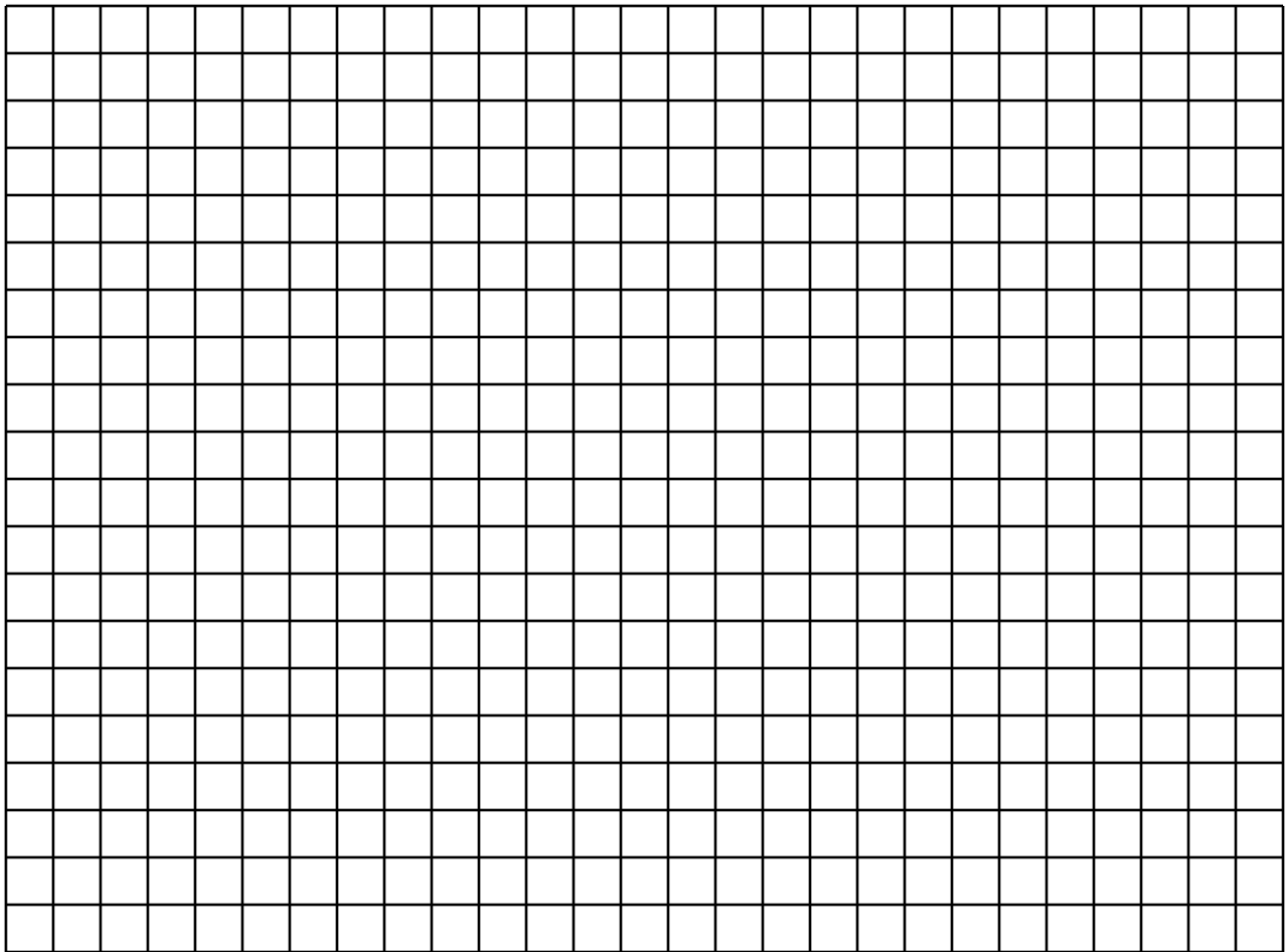
**Web Search:** Key words for a web search are **College Basketball** or **March Mayhem**. Once a site is found, select **HISTORY** of championship games. One of many web sites is [www.finalfour.net](http://www.finalfour.net).

**Teaching Strategies:** The students will create a scatter plot of the gathered data, draw a line of best fit and write an equation for that line. Students should be encouraged to utilize the graphing calculator but should also know how to complete the questions without the aid of the calculator.

**NCAA BASKETBALL**  
**WINNING AND LOSING**

Today we will look back in history at that famous basketball tournament that we have affectionately nicknamed “March Madness”. You will be analyzing data that has been collected on the winning and losing team’s scores of the championship game to determine trends for predicting future winners.

1. Draw a scatter plot to show the relationship between winning team’s scores and losing team’s scores during the odd-numbered years.



2. Is the data linear? If so, draw a best-fit line. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Find the slope of the line. Describe in words what the slope represents.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Find the  $x$ - and  $y$ -intercepts. Explain in terms of winning and losing scores what each result represents.

---

---

---

5. Write the equation of the best-fit line. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

6. Use the equation to complete the **Predicted Losing Score** column for the chart below.

YEAR	Actual Winning Score	Predicted Losing Score	Actual Losing Score
1942	53		
1952	80		
1962	71		
1972	81		
1982	63		
1992	71		

7. How accurate do you think your predictions are?

---

---

---

8. Now use the data and complete the **Actual Losing Score** column. How accurate are your predictions? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

9. During this year's, 1998, NCAA tournament, the Maryland Terrapins averaged 58 points per game while their losing opponents averaged 56 points per game. Do you think they will win the championship? Justify your answer.

---

---

---

Extension: Research data about the winning and losing teams average points for the NBA championship series. Draw a scatter plot and determine a graph of best-fit. Determine the equation of your best-fit graph and use it to predict the winning team's average score if the losing team's average score is 95.

Sunday, March 14, 1999, 14:26 ET

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Year	Championship	Score	Runner-up	Year	Championship	Score	Runner-up
1939	Oregon	46-33	Ohio St.	1971	UCLA	68-62	Villanova
1940	Indiana	60-42	Kansas	1972	UCLA	81-76	Florida St.
1941	Wisconsin	39-34	Washington St.	1973	UCLA	87-66	Memphis St.
1942	Stanford	53-38	Dartmouth	1974	North Carolina	76-64	Marquette
1943	Wyoming	46-34	Georgetown	1975	UCLA	92-85	Kentucky
1944	Utah	42-40	Dartmouth	1976	Indiana	86-68	Michigan
1945	Oklahoma St.	49-45	New York U.	1977	Marquette	67-59	North Carolina
1946	Oklahoma	43-40	North Carolina	1978	Kentucky	94-88	Duke
1947	Holy Cross	58-47	Oklahoma	1979	Michigan St.	75-64	Indiana St.
1948	Kentucky	58-42	Baylor	1980	Louisville	59-54	UCLA
1949	Kentucky	46-36	Oklahoma St.	1981	Indiana	63-50	North Carolina
1950	CCNY	71-68	Bradley	1982	North Carolina	63-62	Georgetown
1951	Kentucky	68-58	Kansas St.	1983	N. Carolina St.	54-52	Houston
1952	Kansas	80-63	St. John's	1984	Georgetown	84-75	Houston
1953	Indiana	69-68	Kansas	1985	Villanova	66-64	Georgetown
1954	La Salle	92-76	Bradley	1986	Louisville	72-69	Duke
1955	San Francisco	77-63	La Salle	1987	Indiana	74-73	Syracuse
1956	San Francisco	83-71	Iowa	1988	Kansas	83-79	Oklahoma
1957	North Carolina	54-53	Kansas	1990	UNLV	103-73	Duke
1958	Kentucky	84-72	Seattle	1991	Duke	72-65	Kansas
1959	California	71-70	West Virginia	1992	Duke	71-51	Michigan
1960	Ohio St.	75-55	California	1993	North Carolina	77-71	Michigan
1961	Cincinnati	70-65	Ohio St.	1994	Arkansas	76-72	Duke
1962	Cincinnati	71-59	Ohio St.	1995	UCLA	89-78	Arkansas
1963	Loyola (Ill.)	60-58	Cincinnati	1996	Kentucky	76-67	Syracuse
1964	UCLA	98-83	Duke	1997	Arizona	84-79	Kentucky
1965	UCLA	91-80	Michigan	1998	Kentucky	78-69	Utah
1966	UTEP	72-65	Kentucky				
1967	UCLA	79-64	Dayton				
1968	UCLA	78-55	North Carolina				
1969	UCLA	92-72	Purdue				
1970	UCLA	80-69	Jacksonville				

Copyright 1999 NCAA, Host Communications, and Total Sports. All rights reserved worldwide. Credits and legal information.