**Finding Stories in Census Data**

**Guiding Questions and Activity**

**DIRECTIONS**

Address these questions while reading Los Angeles Times reporter Emily Alpert Reyes’ article “Finding stories in census data.” Record your responses directly on this sheet.

1. Reyes says that when she approaches a data set, she looks for “trends” and “outliers.” Explain these two concepts.

2. List some of the tips that Reyes gives to reporters looking for outliers.

3. Reyes suggests that some actions or decisions by her (and other reporters) could be “misleading.” Something Reyes says she tries to avoid is making “sweeping claims.” Later, she mentions contacting the Census Bureau to make sure they haven’t changed questions she is analyzing over time. Why might Reyes include this information for readers? What is she warning them about?

4. What strategy does Reyes use to stay up-to-date on trend stories? How could you apply those strategies in a way that would be meaningful to your school or community?

5. How would you summarize this article’s suggestions for a new staff member? Limit your response to three sentences.

Your next task is to work with a partner or in a small group to search the U.S. census data for stories relevant to your school or community. At the end of your search, you will present at least three story ideas to the class. Complete the chart below as you search.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Interesting data/finding | What I wonder or predict about this data | People I should go find or talk to in exploring the story (sources) |
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