

 Activity 10.10 (AMERICAN) FOOTBALL STATISTICS

Look up the average yards gained for some of the best running backs in the NFL or from college teams popular with your students. Ask students to use average yards gained per down to create a possible list of yardage gains and losses for each player. For example, if a player had an average of 4 yards per carry in a game, the following could have been his data:

10, -3, -2, 21, -5, 3, -1, 5, -1, 13

You may want to do one like this together, then have students create their own. The football context provides an excellent way to use integers meaningfully, integrated with the important concept of averages. ELLs may not be familiar with American football because football in most countries is what is called *soccer* in the United States. Role playing the game with students is a fun way to be sure the game is understood by all. Also, a yard is a U.S. measurement that may not be familiar and could be confused with the other meaning of *yard*. Comparing a yard to a meter can provide a point of reference that will help build meaning for this activity.

From Van de Walle et. al. (2014). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades: Developmentally Appropriate Instruction for Grades 6 – 8* (2nd Ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 183).