

Date: _____

3.5 Notes on Central Tendency: Mean, Median, Mode

The measure of central tendency is a value that a data set tends to be centred around. We usually use one of the following to find the central tendency: mean, median, or mode.

mean - _____

median - _____

mode - _____

When a small set of data has a very high or a very low value:

- the mean is **not** a good measure of central tendency;
- the median is usually a good choice for describing the data;
- the mode may not exist, or may not be reliable.

Removing an unusual value from a small set of data can cause the mean to change significantly.