Interpreting Diagrams, Graphs, and Statistical Illustrations

When good readers encounter a diagram or graph, they are able to make meaning from what they see. In essence, they are able to translate the information that is presented visually in the diagram or graph into useful information. To demonstrate understanding of the information in the diagrams or graphs, readers are often asked to make comparisons involving the information in the diagrams or graphs.

Tip

One strategy that will help you discover the meaning from diagrams or graphs is to practice translating pieces of information from the diagram or graph into sentences. In describing what you see in graphs, you should become familiar making statements with the following words or expressions of comparison:

- more than → most → greater than
- larger → largest
- bigger → biggest
- less than → least → fewer than
- smaller → smallest
- equal → same → different

1. On page 157 of your textbook, review the graph presented in the Conexiones “Las matemáticas”. Based on what you see in the graph, complete the sentences below.

   Three students report that their most preferred fruit is __________________________.
   The largest number of students report that _____________________________________
   ________________________________________.
   The food that __________________________ is bistec.
   Both manzanas and refrescos ____________________________________________.

Sample question:

2. Based on the information presented in the graph on page 157 of your textbook, which statement below is true?
   A More students prefer manzanas to papas.
   B The same number of students prefer refrescos as manzanas.
   C Refrescos are more popular than manzanas.
   D The most preferred food is bistec.