



## Belief in the media activity: Student worksheet

<http://topdrawer.aamt.edu.au/Statistics/Misunderstandings/Belief-in-the-media/Media-claims-activity>

Read the brief media extract below and note down your initial reaction to the information it contains in terms of beliefs you have about the use of guns in the USA.

About six in 10 United States high school students say they could get a handgun if they wanted one, a third of them within an hour, a survey shows. The poll of 2508 junior and senior high school students in Chicago also found 15% had actually carried a handgun within the past 30 days, with 4% taking one to school.

*(The Mercury, 21 July 1993, p. 17.)*

1. What are your initial thoughts and reactions?
2. Now read it again.  
What questions would you ask of the reporter who wrote the story?
3. Would you make any criticisms of the claims in the extract?  
If 'No,' explain why the claim is valid.  
If 'Yes,' what are your criticisms?
4. If you were a high school teacher, would this extract influence your decision to teach somewhere else in the US such as Kentucky or Utah? Explain why or why not?

