Tools for Thought

Using Math and English to Explore Contemporary Issues

The Decline of the West Coast Salmon Population
• a causal analysis that requires synthesis of different sources
• a linear model that predicts extinction

Winning Times in the Olympic 100 Meters for Men and Women
• a definition essay on the nature of equality between the sexes
• a linear system of equations that may need to be reconciled with contradictory ideas in the thesis

The Worldwide Spread of AIDS
• a comparison contrast essay that focuses on opposing viewpoints and contradictory data
• a quadratic model that predicts death from AIDS on a massive scale

The Reintroduction of Wolves into Yellowstone
• a persuasive argument based on a concrete problem
• an exponential model that predicts exponential growth (no surprise!)

A Mathematician’s Apology – G. H. Hardy
• a more philosophical argument that addresses, through responses to a classic text, the underlying purpose of the class