

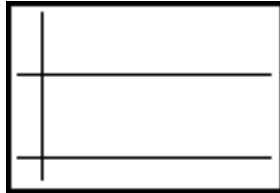
Features of Interest when Analyzing a Distribution of Data

(1) The Center — Where is the “middle” of the data? What data value (or class) occurs most often? What value is most typical of the data in general?

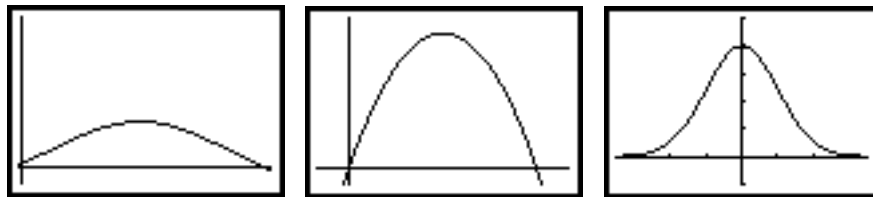
(2) Variability — How widely dispersed or spread out are the data in general?

(3) The basic shape of the data set — Common shapes include:

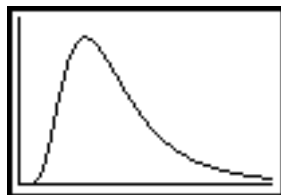
(a) Uniform



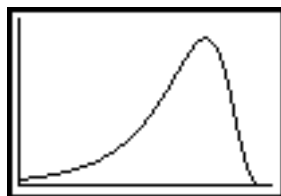
(b) Symmetric (one half is roughly a mirror image of the other)



(c) Skewed to the right (it tails off toward larger values)



(d) Skewed to the left (its tail extends toward smaller values)



(4) Peaks or clusters which indicate that the data falls into natural subgroups

(5) Outliers (observations which differ markedly from the pattern established by the vast majority)

(6) Granularity (values occur only at fixed intervals, such as at multiples of 5 or 10)