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**Using technology and real world connections to teach secondary mathematical concepts.**

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The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) advocates that problem solving, reasoning, communication, and connections be woven throughout K-12 mathematics instruction. Technology facilitates applications of school mathematics to real world situations by providing access to worthwhile data and tools that alleviate the computational constraints often involved in the analysis of real world "messy" data. In this article the authors illustrate a few activities that help students develop conceptual understanding through the use of real world data taken from the Internet and electronic simulations of real world events.

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