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Robert L. Davidson (davidson@etsu.edu), Department Of Mathematics, Box 70663, Johnson City, TN 37614, and **Robert B. Gardner*** (gardnerr@etsu.edu), Department of Mathematics, Box 70663, Johnson City, TN 37614. *A Data Gathering Demo Using Three Stooges Films.*

A novel approach to data gathering based on the films of the Three Stooges is discussed in the setting of hypothesis testing. This demo has been used successfully in business, criminal justice, and math department classes.

A hypothesis concerning the levels of violence between various members of the Three Stooges is motivated by quotes from original members of the team (including audio files from interviews). Students then view parts of random samples from the populations of Stooge films and collect data relevant to the hypotheses under consideration. In the process, students experience the problems inherent in data collection in the “real world.” Students then analyze collected data through various technologies (such as Excel, Minitab, or calculators with statistical capabilities).

Student opinion gathered through surveys supports the claim that this project stimulates student interest and attitude, relieves some math (or statistics) anxiety, and enhances conceptual understanding of the hypothesis testing procedure and of the data gathering experience. (Received September 04, 2008)