



If you don't have a ruler, fold this paper to make one.
Use it to measure the passages on the other side of this page.
You may need to measure a partner's to make it work.

Measuring Paragraphs

Each passage has exactly the same text, and is set in the same typeface.
How does the height of a passage depend on its width?
Predict first! Even if you don't know in detail, what do you know for sure?
Measure the passages and graph your results.
Try to find a *model*—a mathematical function—to fit your data.
Then explain why your function makes sense,
and what any parameters mean.

Because this activity is so useful,
it appears in several publications,
most recently *A Den of Inquiry*,
and soon, *The Model Shop*.
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