

Agree or Disagree: Rounding to the Nearest Unit

Rounding to the nearest place value, or unit, requires students to understand the value of the numbers given their placement in the larger number. When you round, you increase or decrease the value of the number a bit.

When rounding to the nearest hundred thousand (underlined in the number below), look at the number in the place to the right of the hundred thousands place, or the circled ten thousands place below. If the number is five or greater, add one to the number in the hundred thousands place ("round up") and place zeros in all the place values that follow. If the number is less than five, keep the number in the hundred thousands place the same ("round down") and place zeros in all the place values that follow.

Example: 234,560 rounds down to 200,000

Directions: Do you agree or disagree with the rounded answer? Explain your reasoning aloud before writing your rationale below.

Problem 1: 259,060 rounds up to 260,000

I agree (agree/disagree) with this answer because the number is rounded to the nearest ten thousands. I can round to the nearest ten thousands (place value) by looking at the thousands place. The number nine is greater than five, so I can round up the number five to number six and change all the values in the thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones place to zero.

Problem 2: 29,060 rounds down to 29,000

I agree (agree/disagree) with this answer because the number in the thousands place should be nine. I can round to the nearest thousand (place value) by looking at the hundreds place. The number zero is less than five, so I can round down in the thousands place by keeping the value nine thousand and changing the values in the hundreds, tens, and ones place to zero.

Problem 3: 1,332,906 rounds down to 1,400,000

I disagree (agree/disagree) with this answer because the number is rounded incorrectly to the nearest hundred thousands. I can round to the nearest hundred thousand (place value) by looking at the ten thousands place. The number thirty thousand is less than fifty thousand, so I need to round down in the hundred thousands place by keeping the value three hundred thousand and changing all the values in the ten thousands, thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones place to zero. The answer should be 1,300,000.