**Introduction to Confidence Intervals**

You have heard the term “margin of error” before! You may not remember it or realize that you have. It is often referred to when reading about poll results for elections. The articles you will read in this activity present this term. Note that if the article is fairly long, feel free to skim it.

Read the following articles. Both of the articles mention the margin of error. As you read, think about what the margin of is and why it was reported.

*Accurate Way to Predict the Age When Women Will Hit the Menopause Developed*[[1]](#footnote-1)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100627201251.htm>

*Half of CA Voters Oppose Legalizing Pot*[[2]](#footnote-2)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57444862/poll-half-of-ca-voters-oppose-legalizing-pot/>

**Discuss the Following Questions**

1. What do you think the meaning of margin of error is?
2. Why would it be important to include a margin of error when reporting a statistic?
3. A confidence interval is a range of plausible values for the parameter of interest. How do you think the margin of error is used to produce a confidence interval?

1. (2010). Accurate way to predict the age when women will hit the menopause developed. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100627201251.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. (2012). Half of CA voters don’t want pot generally legal. *msnbc.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-250_162-57444862/poll-half-of-ca-voters-oppose-legalizing-pot/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)