

# The Atlantic

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JAMES M. FALLOWS  
Washington Editor

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Dear Ms. Rotberg --

Thanks so much for your note, and for the article about the schooling comparisons. I had known instinctively that something was screwy with those figures, and I appreciate having a clearer sense of what it was. Although I always loved math in school, I am considering some kind of constitutional amendment to forbid the use of any mathematical equations in discussions of public policy (about the Vietnam war, about school performance, and so on). Spurious precision seems to be the main result.

Best work,  
Jim Falls