

## **Details about editing/fact-checking sample**

### **Among many U.S. children, reading for fun has become less common, federal data shows**

In fact-checking this blog post, I used a sortable federal database to verify the statistical significance of data and made several editing changes as well. Some notable changes I made during the fact-checking process:

- I worked with the writer to reword the headline given (“Reading for fun has declined among many children in the U.S., federal data shows”) because I thought “Reading...has declined” did not make as much sense as “Reading for fun has become less common”.
- The writer originally used the phrase “9- and 13-year-olds” in two consecutive paragraphs, and I suggested varying the language to “both age groups” on second reference.
- I changed the phrase “was higher than it has been” to “was at its highest point” for clarity.
- In several cases, we were not clear about which of two surveys (with different dates) we were referring to, so I added in several mentions of which survey we were referencing.
- I caught a factual error by checking the database and noticing that a number we referred to showed an increase of 21 percentage points, not 20, and was up from 9 percent, not 8.
- I persuaded the writer to reword a phrase that implied a statistically significant difference between two numbers, but it was not actually checkable from the data provided.
- I added a note to our standard “how we did this” box indicating exactly how the race categories used were determined and what the language we were using meant.