



# Place Value Project: A Crime by Number

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Math  
Grades 3–5



## Introduction

This project focuses on the place value. Students will choose a number to represent in standard form and create two aliases for this number (the number name and expanded form of the same number). This number is “wanted” for committing math crimes, so students will need to charge this number with crimes related to math, and then, of course, offer a reward for the capture of this criminal!

## Learning Objectives

Students will be able to write numbers in standard form, expanded form, and numbers names.

## Materials Needed

- [Place value project rubric & sample](#)
- Chromebook/Tablet/Computer

## Procedure

1. Pass out the rubric and sample to the students. Go over the sample along with the rubric to show students how to complete the project. Students may choose a variety of mediums to complete this project. Modifications to the requirements can be made based on grade level standards and additionally for students with IEPs. For example, students could be required to have the number in the millions or the thousands period. Another option would be to have the number charged with one math crime instead a minimum of two.
2. Creativity is encouraged in the project. Have students include pictures, quotes, Youtube videos, etc. to make their project more interesting.
3. Show student examples to the class if you have any or if you have created one on your own to use as a model for your first time completing the project.
4. Students must first choose the standard form of the number that will be charged with a crime. Students must have the number approved by the teacher. This is important as many times students will try to use numbers such as 1,000,000,000, but students should be required to use numbers more challenging with more digits of value. The standard form of the number will have two “aliases”, the number name and expanded form.

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5. Students will create a rough draft of ideas for the project. Students will write the standard form of the number, the number name, as well as the expanded form of the same number. Students will brainstorm math crimes and rewards for the capture of this suspect. You can just have students use a piece of scrap paper for the rough draft. It does not need to be anything formal, but something students can use to create their final copy. Students are encouraged to have peers check their math work to make sure that the three forms of the number are correct.
6. Students will choose the way they wish to create the final copy of the project. This allows students to explore their creativity. Many students choose to create posters or three-dimensional models. The tech-savvy students tend to use Google Slides, YouTube, or Scratch to create their projects.
7. Have students present their projects to the class. As this is a topic in the beginning of the year, I do not make it mandatory for the students to present their project, but most choose to. I give two extra credit points on the project grade for the presentation. Also, I mention this is great practice for students, as there are multiple standards in ELA that address speaking.

**\*\*This is a good project to use for virtual learning. The rubric can be input into Google Classroom.\*\***

## Evaluation

This project will be scored according to the rubric.