

TABLE 3.8

The Sum of the Squared Differences of Scores From Their Mean

x	$(x - M)^2$
1	$(1 - 5)^2 = 16$
2	$(2 - 5)^2 = 9$
5	$(5 - 5)^2 = 0$
7	$(7 - 5)^2 = 4$
10	$(10 - 5)^2 = 25$
$\Sigma x = 25$	$\Sigma(x - M)^2 = 54$

In this example, 54 is the smallest possible solution. Subtracting any other value than the mean will produce a larger solution.