Statistical Inductive Reasoning

Inductive reasoning begins with specifics and reasons to something more general. Inductive reasoning can establish correlation and predict things that are likely to be true or which are possibly true, but its conclusions are often not correct. One type of inductive reasoning is called statistical inductive reasoning. This type uses statistics based on a large and random sample set, which makes conclusions about the whole seem stronger. For example:

Generalized Inductive Reasoning:
Most of the left-handed people I've met use left-handed scissors.
All left-handed people use left-handed scissors.

Statistical Inductive Reasoning:
90% of the left-handed people I've met use left-handed scissors,
90% of left-handed people use left-handed scissors.

DIRECTIONS: Using the statistic provided in parentheses, rewrite each example of generalized inductive reasoning as statistical inductive reasoning that draws a conclusion about the whole.

1. Every kid I know prefers summer vacation to being in school. (95%)

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2. Most of the parents I know think virtual school is a bad idea. (9 out of 10)

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