Taxpayers fall into one of 7 brackets, depending on their taxable income. Because the US tax system is a progressive one, as income rises, increasingly higher taxes are imposed. But those in the highest bracket don't pay the highest rate on all of their income. For example, in 2017, single individuals pay $9.6 \%$ only on income above $\$ 418,400$. The lower tax rates are levied at the income tax brackets below that amount, as shown in the table below.
$\left.\begin{array}{|ccccc|}\hline & & \text { 2017 Tax Brackets }\end{array}\right]$

