

D1: To Students taking AP Statistics next year

You didn't think you were going to get away without a summer assignment did you?

In order to get a good start on AP Stat next year, we want you to get well versed with numbers and the problems that people have with them. So your assignment over the summer is to read a book:

The book you are to read is: **How to Lie With Statistics** by Darrell Huff
ISBN: 0393310728

This book is considered a classic. It was written in 1954 yet most of the examples are useful today. This book is very short (142 pages), easy to read, for the most part non-technical, and is at times quite humorous. I know you will enjoy it.

It is readily available in public libraries and in bookstores. If you choose to buy it, several students might chip in together to save the cost. If cost is an issue for you, contact me.

At the beginning of the fall semester, you will be asked to answer some questions on the book and at times during the year, we will refer to it.

Below are some reviews.

From the Publisher

Darrell Huff runs the gamut of every popularly used type of statistic, probes such things as the sample study, the tabulation method, the interview technique, or the way the results are derived from the figures, and points up the countless number of dodges which are used to fool rather than inform.

From The Critics

A 1954 classic that continues to dispel false beliefs and inform the statistically naive. Huff's direct and witty style exposes how advertisers, government and the media mislead their audiences through the misuse of statistics. Huff then explains how the reader can see through the smoke and mirrors to get to the real meaning--if any--of what is presented.

I thought the book was very enjoyable. It allowed one to see the abilities of numbers and how deceiving they are. The book made me realize that even though you know you are looking at a certain number, you have no idea what it means. I loved the book, it was quite funny too in a sarcastic manner. It was very quick to read and contains many humorous illustrations; a great summer reading book.

I read this book for summer reading in high school...Although I was not looking forward to reading it by the end of the book I found it to be very interesting and humorous along the way....The overall purpose of the book as stated in chapter 10 is 'How to look a phony statistic in the eye and face it down,' (Huff, 122). This book has really changed my point of view on how I look at surveys that the world uses to solidify faulty gimmicks. Great book!

This is an absolute classic, and is essential reading for both undergraduate statistics students and anyone who has to work with statistics produced by others --- particularly political polls and market surveys. It identifies and explains many of the ways in which data can be presented so as to entirely distort their meaning.