

Bergenfield High School
Bergenfield, New Jersey

Mathematics Department

Summer Course Work

in preparation for

AP Statistics

Completion of this summer work
is required on the first day of the
2026 - 2027 school year.

Name _____

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Mathematics Department
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Summer Reading Assignment: *Calling Bullshit*

Due: First day of school Assessment: Short quiz on Day 1

Purpose: This book introduces the skills you'll need all year: spotting misleading claims, evaluating data, and thinking clearly in a world full of nonsense. Your job this summer is simply to read actively and understand the major ideas.

What You Must Do

1. Read the following: *Calling Bullshit: The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World* by Carl Bergstrom & Jevin West. Read the entire book. Take brief notes while reading. These do not need to be formal. Students should jot down:

<https://share.google/5kGxFRjn4PCmbkwSS> (online)

<https://a.co/d/06fip9mu> (purchase - optional)

- a. Key terms (e.g., bullshit, data fallacy, correlation vs. causation)
 - b. Any example from the book that stood out.
 - c. Any graph, claim, or argument they found suspicious or interesting.
 - d. A short list of "big ideas" from each chapter.
 - e. Notes will not be collected, but they will help with the quiz.
 - f. Be prepared for a Day-1 quiz.
2. The quiz will focus on:
 - The book's definition of "bullshit"
 - Why bullshit spreads
 - Common ways data and graphs mislead
 - Correlation vs. causation
 - Real examples from the book
 - The authors' recommended strategies for calling out nonsense

This is a concept quiz, not a trivia quiz. Students don't need to memorize page numbers or tiny details — they just need to understand the ideas.

Robert Ragasa
Principal

Steven Neff
Supervisor of Mathematics