**AP Statistics Summer Reading**

Choose one book from the following reading list.  We found all books at Barnes and Noble Bookstore or available at their website.  If you don’t want to buy the book, check a library for the book or split the cost with a classmate.  The assignment is to write a two-page paper containing between 500-1000 words.  This paper must include:

·        a brief summary of the book

·        a description of how the concepts in the text relate to a college level statistics course

·        new ideas as to how the study of statistics applies to everyday life.

Title: A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper, John Paulos, 1996

Description: Paulos examines the often overlooked mathematical angle behind news stories in this informally written, enlightening survey.  He leads us through the pages of the daily newspaper, revealing the hidden mathematical angles of countless articles. From the Senate, the SATs, crime, celebrities, and cults, Paulos takes stories that may not seem to involve mathematics at all and demonstrates how math is a part of them.

Title: Damned Lies and Statistics, J. Best, 2001

Description: This is a great book for understanding bad statistics and how they come to be. This looks like a good book for students to read before taking a statistics course because, as amazon.com puts it, "Understanding this book does not require sophisticated mathematical knowledge." and "Best discusses the most basic and most easily understood forms of statistic, such as percentages, averages, and rates." This book is a good introduction to statistics for someone with limited experience in the field.

Title: How to Lie With Statistics, D. Huff, W. W. Norton, 1952

Description: This book, while slightly dated, is a very user-friendly book informing the reader about the ways in which people manipulate statistics to prove a point. Huff uses good, clear examples to show things and explain common ways where people use statistics to make things look the way they want. This book would be useful for students to read as outside reading for a statistics course with good applications of statistics in everyday life.

Title: The Cartoon Guide to Statistics, L. Gonick & W. Smith, Harper Collins, 1993

Description: This is a book that goes a little deeper in statistics than most in covering hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, etc. However, as amazon.com says, "[these topics are] all explained in simple, clear, and yes, funny illustrations." This book is a good way of getting students excited about using statistics and could be helpful in explaining difficult topics in a clear way.

Title: 200% of Nothing, A.K. Dewdney, John Wiley and Sons, 1996

Description:  This is a book that helps the reader understand the ways in which people are deceived by statistics. Dewdney uses real world examples to prove his points in, as amazon.com puts it, "clear and disarming". This book sounds like a good book for students interested in applications of statistics in everyday life.

Title: Moneyball, Michael Lewis, 2004

Description: Moneyball by Michael Lewis is a book that is less based on statistics, but portrays the ways in it is applied in major league baseball. This book is the story of how Billy Beane, the general manager of the Oakland A's, was able to use statistics to make a very solid team using very little money. This book is more about Billy Beane and the Oakland A's story than statistics, but it's a good application of statistics and I would recommend it for the baseball fan in getting excited about statistics.