

## Homework 1

Due in class Thursday, September 1st.

Read over the syllabus and bring your signed confirmation to class Thursday.

1. Prepare a 1 minute persuasive speech to either support or oppose the idea that property crime is a serious problem in the United States. If your last name is in the beginning of the alphabet (A–K), you should argue that property crime is a serious problem. If your name is in the latter part of the alphabet (L–Z) you should argue that property crime is not a serious problem. Take the 1 minute time limit seriously—during class you will be timed on the speech, so make sure you can give it in one minute or less. You will give your speech to a group of 6–8 classmates and they will evaluate how persuasive it is.

To help in preparing your speech, you should download the Department of Justice crime statistics for 2015 at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv14.pdf>. You should treat these statistics as the truth (i.e., assume the methodology is reasonable; dont spend your time in the speech questioning these statistics).