

Homework 1

Due by 1pm Wednesday, January 29th.

Read the Introduction to Benedict Carey's book *How We Learn*, which is [available here](#) until you are able to purchase the book.

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–M), you should argue that property crime is a serious problem. If your name is in the latter part of the alphabet (N–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 2018 at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>. Notice that this bulletin has both statistics on property crime and on other crimes, of course, you can focus only on the property crime parts. You should treat these statistics as the truth (i.e., assume the methodology is reasonable; don't spend your time in the speech questioning these statistics).

2. Invent a descriptive statistic that captures some aspect of your family. Report the value of this statistic and explain how you calculated it. Anything goes here. Explain one aspect of your family that this statistic captures well and one nuance that it totally misses. Please submit this work to our shared google drive folders by 1pm on Wednesday.

I have added instructions on how to submit the homework in our shared google folders. Check them out. Two things to highlight: **please only submit pdf files, as they are much much easier for me to edit and return; also, please read the file naming convention, which will make it easier for us to keep your homework organized.**