

## Letter to Future AP Stat Students:

I don't know why you chose to take this class, but you did. This was definitely not my favorite class of all time, but that might just be because I took it as an elective as a senior who hates math. According to Robinson, my only other option was AP Calc, which was a no. But this class isn't that awful, if you use the textbook. And Seever is a funny teacher. 7/10 is what I would give this class. I would suggest to write down everything Seever says and always do guided notes. And if you have to do the homework, do NOT wait until the night before because then you will go to bed at 3 AM and that sucks. Oh and keep your calculator charged/have extra batteries.

A couple tips to know for AP Statistics is that you should read the textbook, do homework on time, and use your guided notes. I am not kidding when I say "do your homework". You will not get an A by putting zero effort in. Many people consider AP Stat a class where you can get an easy A and sleep in class. This class is quite the opposite in my opinion. While not as hard as AP Calc, the class still has that AP rigor to it. Without studying, there's a high chance you will fail the tests. Tests in general are half multiple choice and half FRQ so you need to know your stuff well. Time was also a factor for me on tests b/c I'd take so long to finish;

Keep that in mind. I wish I had known how stat wasn't an easy class. I mainly chose this class as a GPA booster for my junior year. The class ended up being fairly hard, especially ~~de~~ since I doubled up on math (with precalculus). Also, another tip to remember is that the class is very self driven, meaning that you have to be on top of projects, notes, work, etc..

Last, ~~yo~~ consider yourself lucky that you have Mr. Sewer. While his class seemed hard for me, he did an excellent job in teaching each unit and took the time to address any questions we had. Good luck you all! Go get an A!

Dear next years' AP Stat students,

To be successful in this class practice is key. Do your homework each night until you fully understand the concepts. The year builds on itself so you don't want to fall behind. If you don't understand a unit don't blow it off and give up because you will probably use things you learned from that unit in ones to follow. When Mr. Sever does the guided notes in class be sure to pay attention + take the notes because although it may seem boring it'll be very helpful especially when you're studying. My advice would be to start off doing the textbook homework + reading in the beginning because it's super helpful, but later in the year I found myself not needing to do it - that's also a motivation to keep your grade up so you don't have to turn in every homework problem (it's alot). A misconception about this class is that it's super easy + no work - although I found it easy, you do need to put in some work in order to be successful. Also for a math class there's alot more writing than you'd expect but it's not bad just figure out early on what key words not to forget. Before taking this class I wish I had known how helpful keeping an organized notebook of vocab is for studying especially for finals.

Good Luck this year!!

Dear new AP Stat student,

Welcome to Mr. Sever's class! ~~What~~ You may be intimidated by this class at first, but do not worry - if you study a little bit every day, you will find that the concepts come easily to you. Mr. Sever is a great teacher, very engaging, and I suggest making the most of his willingness to ~~give~~ answer questions in the mornings and during AO.

An important tip I would give is to review constantly. Each new unit builds off of the old units, and a good mastery of past units will help when it comes time for Second Semester especially. Also, hold on to your notes from the entire year - they will help in reviewing!

Please do not be afraid - this class does require discipline in order to fully understand all the new concepts, but it ~~is~~ is taught by a great teacher who cares about his students. If you take notes in class and study a bit every day, you will get a good grade!

Dear Future Stat Student,

If you chose to take this class because someone told you that it is an "easy AP," I'm sorry because that person lied to you. Stat is a whole new type of math you have never experienced before. But here are some things you can do to make your stat experience a little better.

1. Get a graphing calculator, you won't be able to successfully complete the class without it.

2. Take notes, you will need them when you are doing stuff at home.

3. Get a tutor, sometimes learning the information from someone else helps you to understand it better.

4. Write down every example, you never know what will be on the test.

5. Do your homework, besides it being a grade it actually does help you understand the information.

If you do all of these things and pay attention in class, you will hopefully have an easy stat experience.

Sincerely,

A Current Stat Student

Hey guys,

So I took Stats because I don't really like math that much, and I really, really did not want to take calculus. I didn't think I'd like stats that much because I'm not a very "business-minded" person, but it actually ended up being probably my favorite class that I've taken in high school so far. The thing about Statistics is that it's not actually a lot of pure math. It's still pretty formulaic, though, in that you learn a concept and how to apply it to problems, and it's really the same type of set-up over and over. If you can get your head wrapped around the specific components that you need to include in an answer for each "type" of stats problem (because grading for statistics is pretty picky since it follows the AP-graders' rules), then you'll do very well in statistics. Mr. Sever really stresses using the textbook, but, to be honest, I never actually used mine. Mr. Sever does pretty involved lectures and he usually lectures on a topic for more than one day (or keeps coming back to that concept in following lectures), so I felt like I got a good grasp on the topics just by listening in class and doing the in-class activities. If you're the type of person who gets easily distracted in class or misses a lot of class, though, you're gonna need to use the textbook if you want to do well. Overall, though, I feel like the main reason why I did well in stats is because I found it interesting, especially second semester when we started talking about significance tests. It's material that I'd never really experienced in any other class, and it actually has somewhat practical everyday applications. You'll start seeing stats everywhere. Other than that, here's just a few more pieces of advice:

You'll do a fair amount of partner work in-class, so find a good partner day 1. People tend to stick with the same partners all year, and you don't wanna get stuck with someone bad. Mr. Sever might seem a little scary if you're not particularly adept at approaching teachers, but he's actually really nice, and he's one of those teachers who really is willing to help you. With that, have fun in stats!

Dear 2018-2019 Stat Student,

I want to preface by saying you've made a good decision by taking this course. It's incredibly useful, challenging, and a blast from start to finish.

However, it isn't easy. You're going to need to study, and no amount of night-before cramming will be as helpful as studying a bit each night. The tests cover every detail of the unit, and the FROs require all of your energy. (I recommend the drop-two-at-semester's-end option. You'll know what I mean later 😊)

Despite his occasional self-deprecating humor, Mr. Sever is an awesome, helpful teacher. He really does care for all of his students, and he gets to school early if you need any help.

Please, please don't do nothing in class. Do the guided notes, read the book, do what you're asked. I wish I'd paid more attention to the details of every unit, because they really do make or break your grade.

Good luck, have fun, but most of all, DON'T fall behind! Each unit is based off the last.

Stay in school,

A 2017-2018 stat nerd

Jared McGrath

2018-19 AP STAT Students and whomever else reads this,

I've heard that reading the textbook helps to understand the units better and that some test questions are pulled directly from the textbook, but I wouldn't know that. I'll probably spend the same amount of time searching for that textbook as my combined amount of homework I did this year. Common sense is key to passing this class and paying attention in class may be enough alone to get an A. This class is not nearly as stressful as many of the other classes you will be taking sophomore, Junior, or senior year, but if you don't understand one topic, make sure to work at it because nothing you do in this class goes away. Well except sample 2 tests of course, but you have no idea what I'm talking about neither do you need to. The guided notes can be really boring but I'd recommend filling them out because they are good for learning what you don't understand and the 2 projects you will have late in the year. You will get to participate in many fun surveys and be a part of random samples and I feel by enjoying them, you can better understand their purpose and reasoning. The beginning of the year may start off really easy but be sure to pay attention because sampling will be one of the most important units you do all year. The year does gradually get more difficult but you can BS your way through some units (Be specific). I hope you find some meaning in this letter, but if not I guess I'll let that slide.

CYA Later,

→ Check your assumptions

Dear AP Stat Students,

If you're reading this letter, you probably care about your success in this class and want to do as well as you can. This is an admirable trait. Keep this up. You and I both know that this won't last, so my first challenge to you would be for you to remember and remind yourself why exactly it is that you care. Keep this "why" as long as you hold that belief. This doesn't ~~only~~ only apply to Stat. If you care about your outcome in this class, you will have every tool possible for your success. You'll have more than enough homework problems for practice (if you look at the textbook). You'll have a teacher that, while most offensive is eye-roll worthy sarcastic and has a specific grudge against technology, is a fantastic person and explainer who cares about your individual success and is available for every issue that you have. Use him. ~~He~~ He knows what he's doing. If you don't care about your success, then stop reading this letter and go play Fortnite. But if you really care, you know you'll need help. This help is readily available for you. Use as much as you need. Personally, I tried really hard for the first test, so I never did textbook work ever again. I know if I understood the material, I would hate myself if I had to do endless homework problems. But do what you need.

Don't be shy.  
Ask questions.  
Understand things  
Succeed.

c/o 2018

Dear Future Ap Stat Students,

Many of you have been told that this class is a slack class or an easy A. While for a select few talented students this may be true let me assure you of this: you must study and read the textbook for clarification when you can not recall a topic or do not understand Mr. Sever's explanation. I know he will tell you to read the textbook, but that never really worked for me personally. I chose to watch youtube videos of problems being worked out instead. Another great thing to do is go to the college board website and review practice FRQs. I believe these are the hardest things in Ap Statistics because you must be very specific in your wording (Mr. Sever will refer to this as be specific). In regards to the wording of explanations always refer back to your guided notes, and if he takes the time to write out an explanation, do not paraphrase. His explanations are easy formulas so you get full credit for what you know on the AP exam. Anyways, I wish you all luck in your future endeavors, but please remember that tends to favor those who work hard.

Dear future students,

First of all, yikes. Unless you're sure you want to do this, don't. You will regret it. But if you are sure you want to, here's what you need to get up to speed and out the door.

- DO. YOUR. HOMEWORK.
  - I didn't, regretted it. Just do it
- Listen in class and have AT LEAST one example in FULL for each scenario... make that two
- On the tests, Breathe.

No Stats is not just probability you learned in middle school. It gets deep.

- There is no shame in getting a tutor, I had our valedictorian (or however you spell it) as my tutor and she helped tremendously.

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Prioritize! If stats isn't your most important class, don't overload your brain with these types of things. But BE RESPECTFUL TO YOUR TEACHER! He may seem like he plays favorites, but just do what works for you.

Dear AP Stat Student,

AP Statistics is an interesting math course that is very detailed oriented. Mr. Sever is a very smart guy and he really does understand how the AP Exam is structured and graded. My best advice is to listen in class. He gives good examples, write them down so you can look @ them later. Although the HW is a great way to study and gain extra practice, I don't think it is necessary to do all of the hw to succeed. I highly recommend going to the review session @ the end of the year. Enjoy the class Mr. Sever can make it fun and its the most fun when you understand the content! Good Luck!

— Someone who's already taken the class