

Vis Critique: Find and Analyze a Good Visualization**Due Monday, October 8, 7 am.**

Now that we've introduced you to Tufte's principles of excellence and integrity, the goal of this assignment is to get you to apply them to visualizations you see in the world around you.

Find a good visualization of quantitative data, one that demonstrates Tufte's principles of excellence. It needn't be terribly complex, but it should include multiple variables, and be clear and effective. Ideally, it will be a visualization you personally find interesting. Analyze it, using the questions below:

1. Who is the intended audience? (Indicate the source – where did you find this?)
2. What information does this visualization represent?
3. How many data dimensions does it encode?
4. List several tasks, comparisons or evaluations it enables.
5. What principles of excellence best describe why it is good?
6. Can you suggest any improvements?
7. Why do you like this visualization?

Create a PDF document or a web page suitable for sharing with the class that includes your image and your analysis. We will present these visualizations briefly in class on 10/9 and 10/11. Be prepared to discuss your choice if called upon to do so.

Level of detail

This is supposed to be a fun exercise that should only take you a couple of hours. You need only write a sentence or two for most questions. Your grade depends on the accuracy of your insights, not the fluency of your prose.

Potential sources

This exercise is traditionally performed using print media (books, magazines, flyers, posters, etc.). You may also use the web, which provides online access to most print media. A simple approach is to use Google images. The terms chart, graph and data map all produce many images. If you do use an image from the web, provide a link to the original page.

Do not use any of the visualizations discussed in class, or any from a text or website teaching visualization, and certainly not from another class's similar exercise. Use only static visualizations for this exercise (a single, stand-alone frame from an interactive tool is also acceptable)

Summary of Tufte's principles

<http://courses.washington.edu/info424/documents/Tufte%20principles.pdf>