



Data Schools

Data Visualisation

3. Teaching

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Tips & structure on Teaching data Visualisation



- ☐ Learning about the science of visualization (gestalt principle)
- ☐ Studying fundamentals & then putting them into practice
- ☐ Learning the good practices first
- ☐ Practicing together

Begin with inspiration

- “ A picture is worth a thousand of words ”
- “ Design is a funny word. Some people think design means how it looks. But of course, if you dig deeper it’s really how it works ” *Steve Jobs*
- “ The greatest value of a picture is when it forces us to notice what we never expected to see ”
John Tukey



“I’ll give you a thousand words for it.”

Gestalt Principles

- “Gestalt” is German for “unified whole” ;
- Principles/laws of human perception that describe how humans group similar elements, recognize patterns and simplify complex images when we perceive objects;
- Gestalt Principles are an essential part of visual design;
- Our brain is a pattern-detecting machine;

Studying fundamentals first



- Learn the four pillars of data visualization;
- Know your data (variables types);
- Find the story in your data;
- Know chart types and usage;

Learning best practices



- Focus on color choice;
- Define the type of your variable (data) and choose the suitable chart for it;
- Learn the do's and don'ts for each chart type;

Practicing together

- Get them do a visual design;
- Deliver hands-on but practice together;
- Practicing together (with real-time assistance) is a motivational way of assessment;
- It will also help them not to waste time writing commands;

Summary of tips



- Focus on teaching a design process;
- Use sample data that is relevant to students to make the lessons more engaging and real;
- Teach critique and give a lot of feedback;
- And don't forget to make it “**FUN**”



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Thank you