

## Topic Outline: Thinking About Projects

Revised: March 27, 2016

### Materials

- Today's handouts: this outline, project examples, mini-cases
- All posted on *Topic outlines & links* page of website

### Projects

- Back to where we started: **thinking about data**
- **Project** is heart of course — and a demonstration of your skillset that you can share with potential employers.
- Typical project has
  - Data
  - A **graph that tells a story**
  - Additional graphs that explore follow-up questions
- Idea machines
  - Start with an idea or subject (what interests you?)
  - Start with a dataset (ask if you're not sure what's available)
  - Start with an example (see links on data page)
  - Start with a suggestion from the people you work with
- Places to look for ideas
  - Course data page
  - Sources and apps docs (oh no!)
- Who has an idea of what they want to work on?
- Project examples (see handout)

### After class

- Required
  - Submit Revised Project Ideas next week — or the week after
- Recommended
  - Skim Project Guide
  - Skim Project Examples
  - Bounce around project ideas with friends