

Welcome to CIS 4170 -  
The creation and study of  
**Data Visualization**  
w Anna O'Connell

# Agenda

1. What is Data Visualization? Is it the same as Infographic?
2. Charles Joseph Minard's 1869 diagram.
3. Your first required textbook (Intro and Chapter 1).
4. Course milestones.

# What is Data Visualization?

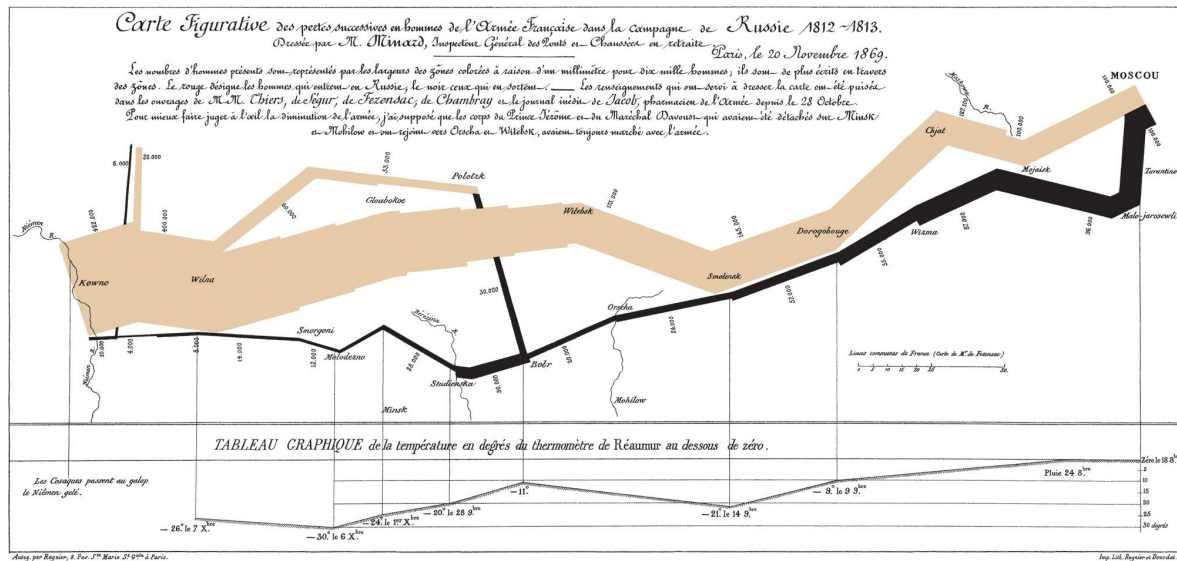
A systematic **mapping** exists between **data values** and **graphic marks** in the creation of **the visualization**.

This mapping establishes how data values are represented visually to communicate information.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data\\_visualization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_visualization)

# Charles Joseph Minard's 1869 diagram

## 1812 Napoleonic Invasion of Russia by France\*



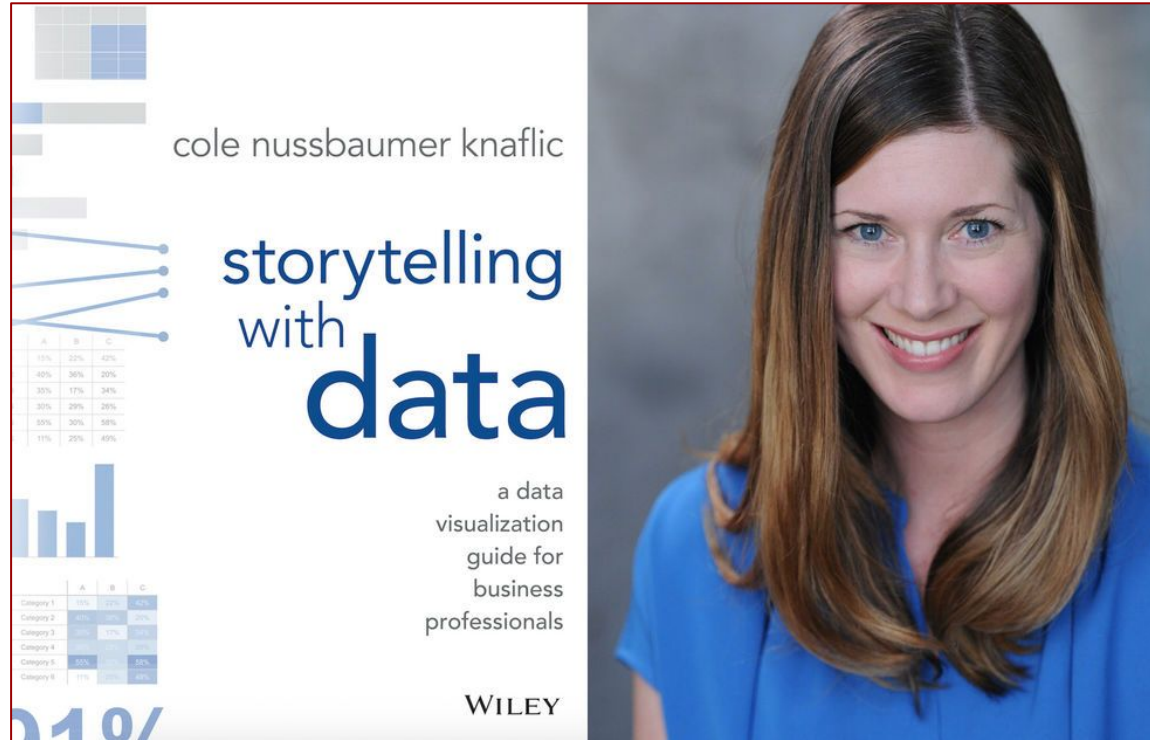
\* Tufte Chapter 1.

# Both a Data Map & Time Series

The space-time story is **multivariate**. How many variables can you count?

1. **Size** of the Army: 422,000 on the Polish-Russian border. 10,000 remaining.
2. **Direction** of the army's movement.
3. **Location** of the army on a **two-dimensional** surface.
4. Napoleon's retreat from Moscow is mapped to a **temperature** scale on various **dates**.

# Your first required textbook.



# Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic

**In 2007**, worked for **Google People Analytics Team** to make data-driven people decisions:

- How to build productive teams
- What makes a manager effective

**Today**, specializes in teaching data visualization courses:

<http://www.storytellingwithdata.com/>

[Safari Database](#)



Introduction.

Bad graphs are everywhere.







# A Grouped Bar Chart vs Line Charts.

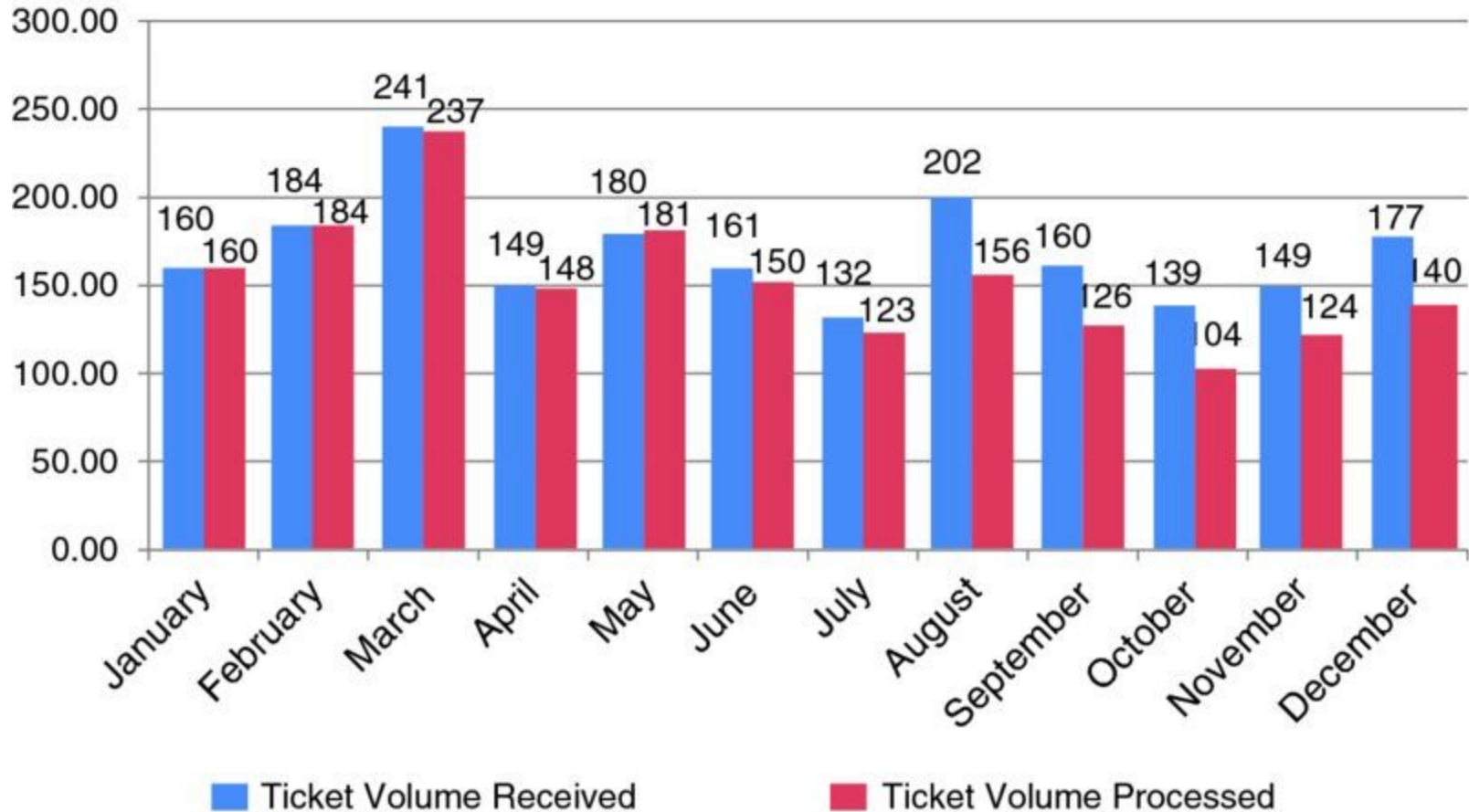


In a **Grouped Bar Chart**

(or a grouped column chart  
or a clustered chart)

bars are clustered in groups of more than one.

# Ticket Trend



# Please approve the hire of 2 FTEs

to backfill those who quit in the past year

## Ticket volume over time



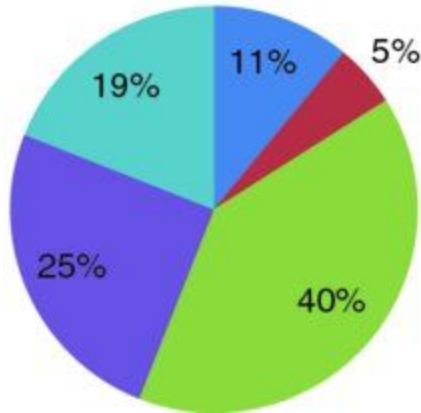
Data source: XYZ Dashboard, as of 12/31/2014 | A detailed analysis on tickets processed per person and time to resolve issues was undertaken to inform this request and can be provided if needed.

# Pie Charts vs Bar Charts.

# Survey Results

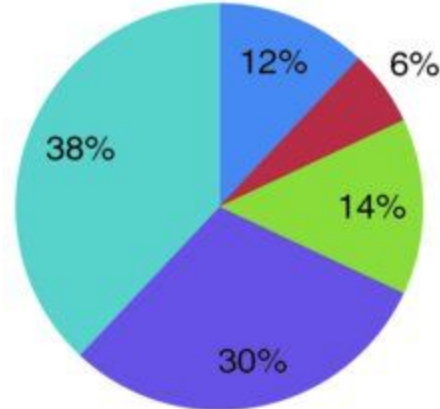
PRE: How do you feel about doing science?

■ Bored ■ Not great ■ OK ■ Kind of interested ■ Excited



POST: How do you feel about doing science?

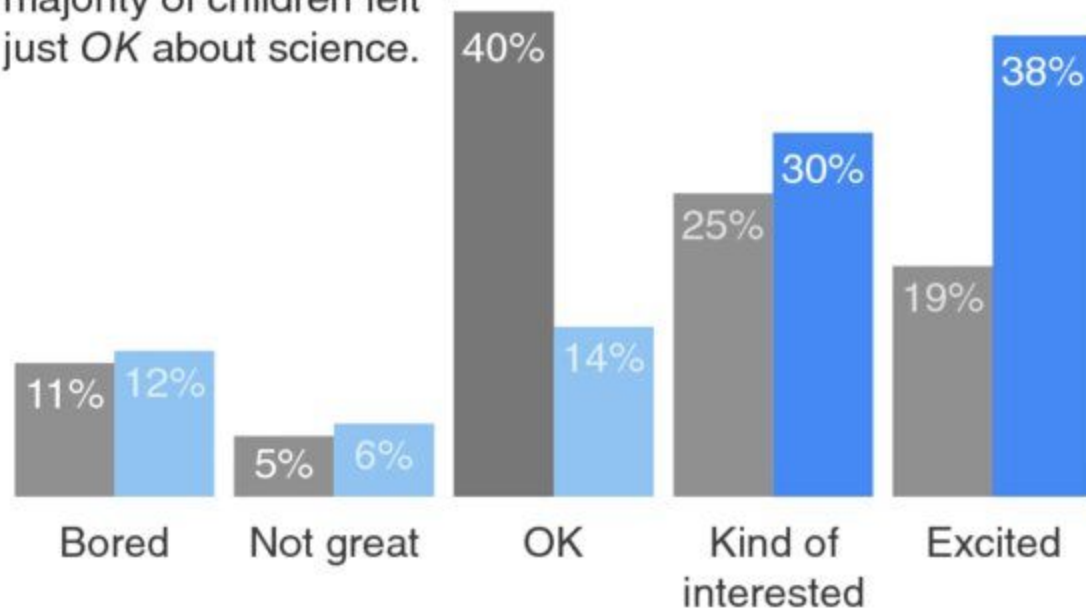
■ Bored ■ Not great ■ OK ■ Kind of interested ■ Excited



# Pilot program was a success

How do you feel about science?

**BEFORE** program, the majority of children felt just OK about science.



**AFTER** program, more children were *Kind of interested & Excited* about science.

Based on survey of 100 students conducted before and after pilot program (100% response rate on both surveys).

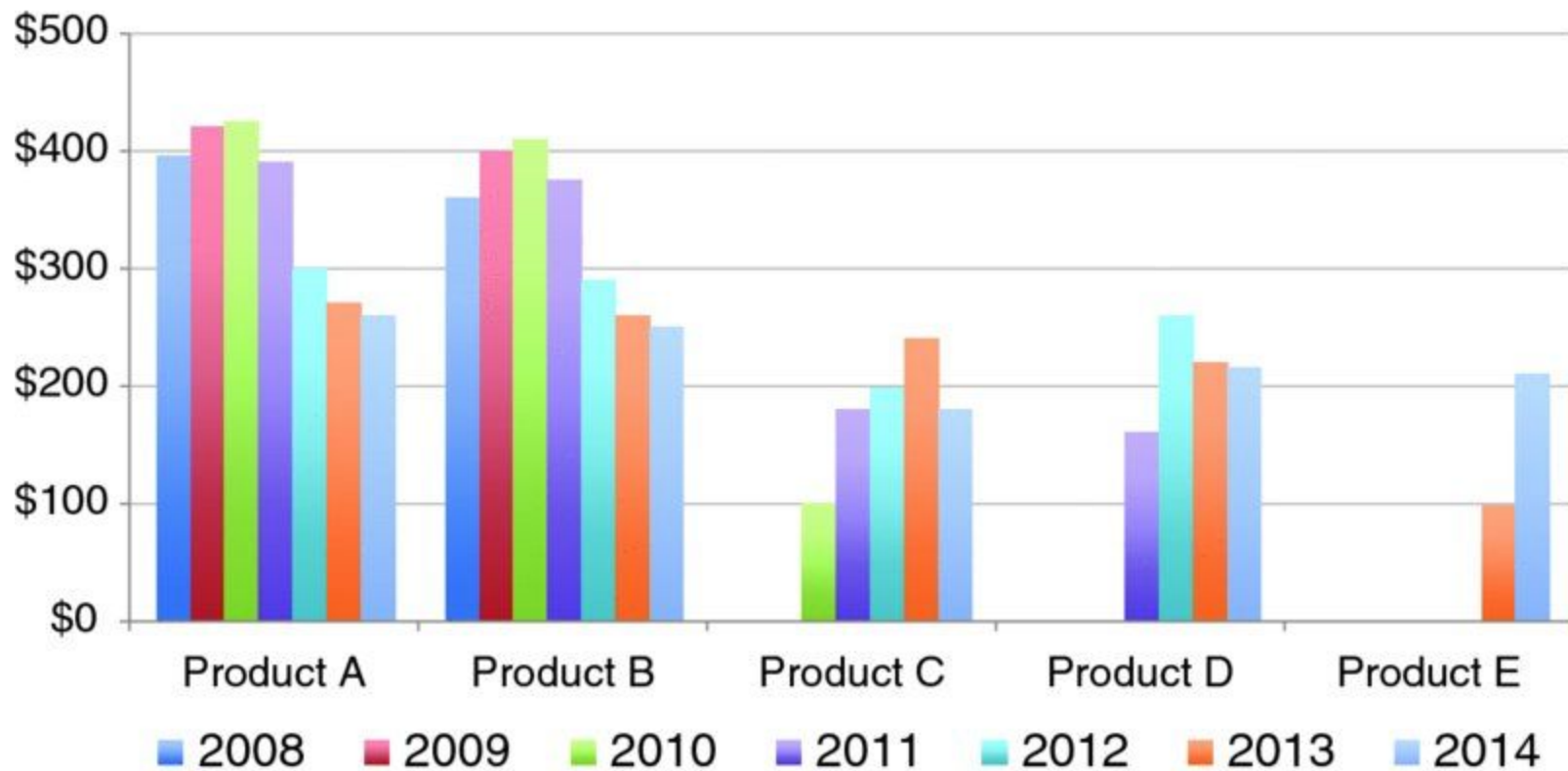


# A Grouped Bar Chart vs Line Charts.



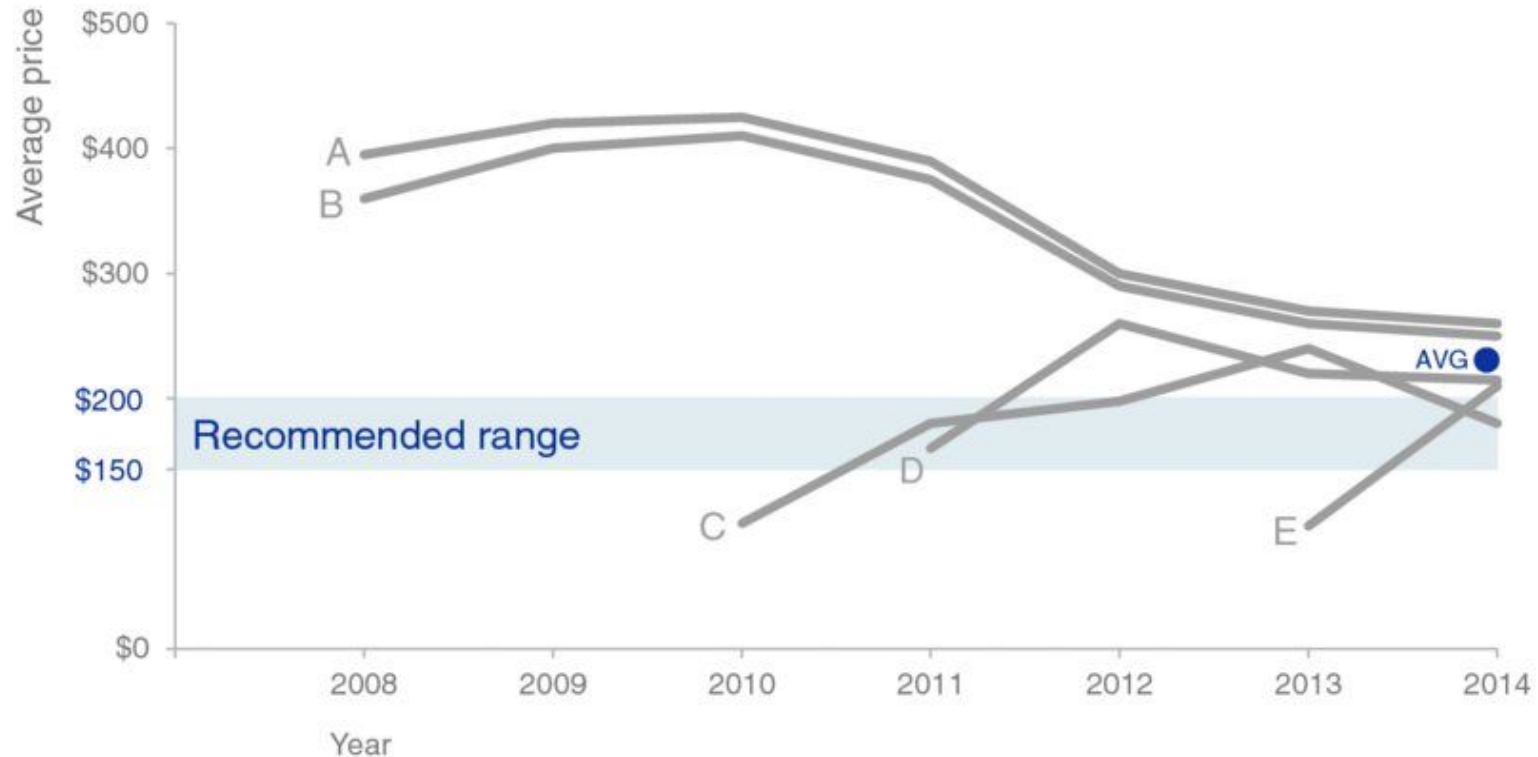


### Average Retail Product Price per Year



To be competitive, we recommend introducing our product *below* the \$223 average price point in the **\$150–\$200 range**

Retail price over time by product



# Conclusion

Effective Data Visualization:

- tells a clear story / a call to action
- the choice of visual aid makes the story obvious
- title contains the summary of findings
- text reinforces the message

# The importance of context.

Chapter 1.



# Exploratory vs.



**Don't just present all data...**

# Explanatory analysis



**What story would you like to tell?**

**WHO:** The **budget committee** that can approve funding for continuation of the summer learning program.

**WHAT:** The summer learning program on science was a success; **please approve the budget** to continue.

**HOW:** Illustrate success with the data collected through the **survey** conducted before and after the pilot season.



# 3-minute story

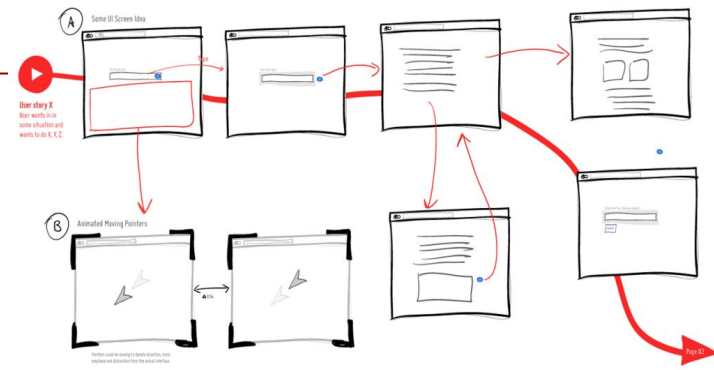
What would you say **if you only had three minutes** to tell your audience what they need to know?

# vs. Big Idea

## One Sentence:

*"The pilot summer learning program was successful at improving students' perceptions of science and, because of this success, we recommend continuing to offer it going forward; **please approve our budget** for this program."*

The **storyboard** establishes the structure for your communication. It's a visual outline of the content you plan to create.





Issue:

Kids have bad  
attitudes about  
science

Demonstrate Issue:

show student  
assignment grades  
over course of year

Ideas for  
overcoming issue,  
including  
pilot program

Describe pilot  
program -  
goals, etc.

Show before &  
after survey  
data to  
demonstrate  
success of program

RECOMMENDATION:  
pilot was a success  
let's expand it  
we need \$\$\$

# To summarize...

Before you start creating content:

- Arrive with **explanatory** analysis.
- Decide **who** is your client and **what** you want to convey.
- The 3-minute story and the Big Idea will help you tell your story clearly.
- **Storyboarding** will help to narrow down the desired story.

Have a solid understanding of your story.



# True or False?

To communicate your idea to the audience, you really want to be in **exploratory** analysis space.

**ANS: False.**

# List the components of understanding the context:

Explanatory Analysis

**Who** - Who is the audience?

**What** - what do you need your audience to know or do?

**Mechanism** - Live presentation / written doc / email / slideument.

**Tone**

**How** - what data is available?

The 3-minute story and big idea

The **storyboard** establishes the structure for your communication.

# Which one is longer?

- a. The 3-minute story
- b. The big idea

**ANS: a. The 3-min story. Big idea is just one sentence.**

# DataViz Videos

Ted Talks - Ideas about visualizations - Making sense of too much data:

[https://www.ted.com/playlists/56/making\\_sense\\_of\\_too\\_much\\_data](https://www.ted.com/playlists/56/making_sense_of_too_much_data)



# Class Milestones



# YOUR PRESENTATION WILL BE SCHEDULED (ALPHABETICALLY).

Please email me your topic one week prior.

Choose the DataViz, Tell the Story, Decipher the visual.

Length: 4-6 min individual contribution.

Structure:

- Intro, body (2-3 points), conclusion.

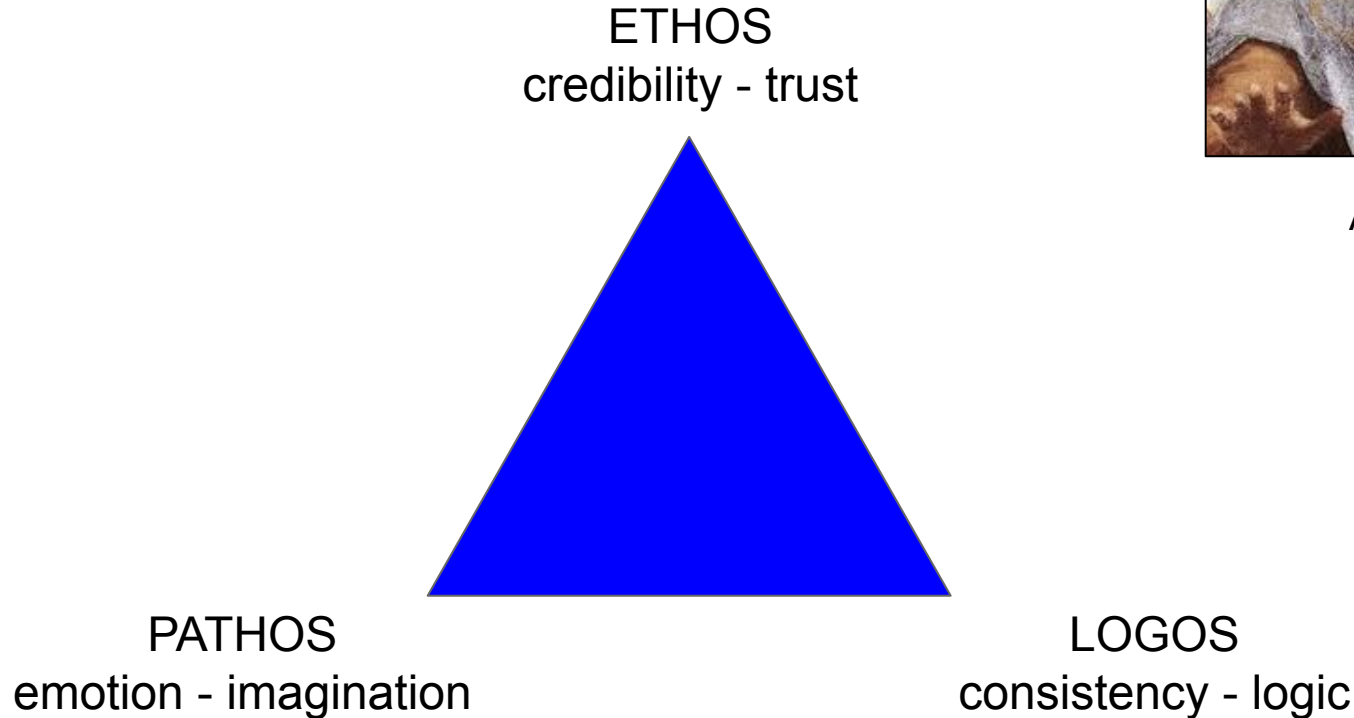




# YOUR PRESENTATION: THE TRIANGLE OF RHETORIC



Aristotle



# Tableau Top 10

<https://www.tableau.com/learn/articles/best-beautiful-data-visualization-examples>