

# Data Visualization Assignment

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*This assignment is due **XXX** at the start of class.*

Create a series of infographics and data visualizations around a chosen topic. Follow the steps we covered in class to obtain, analyze and visualize data using open source, online tools.

The first step is to choose a topic. Choose carefully, as this will also be the topic you use for your final assignment. We will talk more about appropriate topics in class. You will need to get your topic approved by the instructor.

After you choose a topic, you should work to obtain data on that topic. Finally, you will create infographics, data visualizations and maps from the data.

## Required Elements

**Topic:** We will talk more about appropriate topics in class. Instructor approval on topic is required.

**Charts:** At least two infographics created with C3 or Illustrator, using data / stats relevant to your story / topic.

**Timeline / story map:** A timeline or story map creating using Knight Lab tools.

**Map:** A Google Fusion Table map using data relevant to your topic. The map should include at least 10 points and a customized pop-up window.

## Steps / Process

- Choose a topic. Get topic approved by instructor.
- Obtain graphable statistics about your topic.
- Obtain mappable data about your topic.

- Design and create a series of infographics.
- Create timeline or story map
- Create a google fusion tables map from your data
- Include the infographics and maps in your final web assignment

## Design

- Be sure to include graphic design fundamentals taught in class: *contrast, repetition, alignment, proximity, unity*.
- Choose data that helps tell your story. What are you visualizing and why? How does it help viewers gain a better understanding of the story? What do your infographics say?
- Choose contextual design elements that help viewers understand your story. Color, type, graphics, etc should all toward telling your story.
- Choose the best infographic to use with the data that you have obtained.

## Inspiration

Follow the process we reviewed in class with the school shootings data and infographics. You should have already completed a very similar project in class. Now it is time to do it on your own. For online inspiration, look to Post Graphics (<http://postgraphics.tumblr.com/>), FiveThirtyEight (<http://fivethirtyeight.com/>), Axios (<https://www.axios.com/>), NYT graphics (<https://twitter.com/nytgraphics>), HuffPo Graphics (<http://data.huffingtonpost.com/>), Bloomberg Graphics (<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics>), Edward Tufte (<https://twitter.com/EdwardTufte>) and of course Alberto Cairo's The Functional Art (<http://www.thefunctionalart.com/>).

## Grading

- Charts: 33%
- Timeline / story map: 33%
- Fusion table: 34%

## Extra credit

Experiment with way to create interactive infographics outside of chartbuilder / data wrapper / fusion tables. Include an additional infographic created using a different open source method. +5 percent.