

Intentionally Misleading Storytelling with Data

Pre-reading and Reflection

Pre-Reading Material:

From NBC News - [NFL offenses aren't scoring as much. Nobody knows exactly why.](#)

When we look at recent NFL statistics we notice a consistent decline in average points since the year of 2020, which could be attributed to many things, one of which is likely new defensive strategies.

I will attempt to mislead by finding correlations between this data and other global phenomena happening in the same time frame, and suggesting incorrect reasons why they had an impact on the ability of professional football teams to score points.

Questions:

- A) What do passing totals have to do with the average points per game?
- B) What reasons does the article give as to why point average and passing totals are down?
- C) How might recent shifts in offense strategy impact the points per game?
- D) How might recent shifts in defensive strategy impact the points per game?
- E) Many of the “star” quarterbacks are getting older. Is it reasonable to say this has an impact on points per game?
- F) The article talks about a “decline” in several statistics. How long has this been happening?
- G) The article references several social media posts by sports commentators. What role do they play in the conversation?
- H) Why might those invested in sports like Football care so much about statistics?

Primary data source:

[Football Players are getting worse at the game.](#)