

**EN 605.662 Data Visualization****Project #1 – Visualization Critique**

Announced: First Day of Module #1

Due: First Day of Module #3

I. Purpose:

In this course you will learn about the core principles of data visualization and the key elements that need to be considered to create effective visualizations. Often, there are many different ways to create visual representations of a specific dataset; unfortunately there also even more approaches to create misleading and ineffective illustrations for a given dataset. The goal of this assignment is to apply your basic knowledge of data analysis, data visualizations, and human computer interaction to write a critique about specific visualization that you find to be ineffective. This assignment will also give you the opportunity to comment, justify, complement or critique a visualization that one of your classmates selected as been ineffective.

II. Task:

1. Find a visual representation (i.e. visualization) from the web, textbook, magazines, or newspaper that you think is ineffective at illustrating the data.
2. Once you have selected your visualization, write a paper explaining:
 - a. The data being shown
 - b. The type of visualization(s) being used
 - c. What aspects of the visualization are effective
 - d. What aspects of the visualization are misleading
 - e. How the current visualization can be improved
3. After the submission of your assignment, all visualizations submitted by students will be uploaded into Blackboard as anonymous files. Student must select at least one of the visualizations of their classmates and comment about it. Students can comment, support, complement, or criticize the visualization as been effective or ineffective at the specific task in question.

III. Useful Links

- <http://viz.wtf/>
- <http://flowingdata.com/>



IV. What to submit

- Document (1+ pages long) describing the visualization you selected. Please explain:
 - the data
 - the purpose of the illustration
 - the visualization used
 - aspects of the visualization that are misleading or ineffective
 - aspects of the visualization that are effective
 - how the visualization can be improved. Please feel free to reference other visualizations that show similar data that you believe are more effective.
- Document must include at least one screenshot of the visualization
- Document must include a citation of reference of source of the visualization (i.e. link to website, citation of a paper or book, etc...)
- Project must be submitted through Blackboard
- Project must be submitted as a single .zip or .tar.gz file with the following files:
 1. *Paper*. Paper that you wrote with the information requested above. Please use the following file format: your_lastname_project01.docx or your_lastname_project01.pdf
 2. *Image*. Image that was criticized as a separate file. Please use the following file format: your_lastname_project01_image.jpg
 3. *Reference*. Text file with just the reference to the image (e.g. link to website, citation to paper, etc...). Please use the following file format: your_last_name_project_image_link.txt
- Once the anonymous visualizations are posted in Blackboard, submit comments, complements, or critiques for other visualizations by the due date.

V. Grading

Students will be evaluated based on the quality of the critique. There is no right or wrong critique, but there are complete and incomplete critiques. 80% of the grade will go towards the submitted document and explanation provided for data, illustration, effectiveness, how it can be improved, etc... 20% of the grade will be towards the critique, comments, or suggestions provided to one of your classmate's visualization.