

Visualizing Single-Participant Data

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Introduction

Welcome to the tutorial on “Visualizing Single-Participant Research Data with Line Plots using ggplot2 in R.” This tutorial is designed for first-year graduate students who are embarking on their research journey and have little to no experience with data visualization in R.

Single-participant research studies play a vital role in various fields, including psychology, education, and healthcare. They involve the systematic observation of individual participants over time, allowing researchers to gain valuable insights into behavioral patterns, interventions, and treatment effects. One of the most powerful tools at your disposal for exploring and communicating the findings from such studies is data visualization.

We will use the popular ggplot2 package in R, a versatile and powerful tool for creating a wide range of data visualizations.

Throughout this tutorial, you will learn how to:

- Set up your R environment and load the necessary packages.

- Import and examine single-participant research data.
- Create clear and informative line plots with time on the x-axis and a measure on the y-axis.
- Enhance your plots with labels, colors, and error bars.
- Customize and format your visualizations to meet publication standards.
- Apply your newfound skills to a real-world case study.

By the end of this tutorial, you will have the knowledge and skills to effectively visualize single-participant research data, enabling you to communicate your findings with clarity and precision. So, let's get started with the fundamentals of ggplot2 and begin your journey into the world of data visualization for single-participant research!

Section 1: Getting Started with ggplot2

Installing and Loading ggplot2

Before we dive into creating line plots for single-participant research data, we need to make sure that we have the necessary tools installed and loaded. We'll start by installing and loading the 'ggplot2' package, which is the cornerstone of our data visualization efforts.

Installation

To begin creating data visualizations with ggplot2, we'll first need to install and load the 'tidyverse' package, which includes ggplot2 and other helpful packages for data manipulation and visualization.

```
install.packages("tidyverse")
```

Then, if you want to use the full functionality of the package, you will need to load the tidyverse at the beginning of your code:

```
library(tidyverse)
```

```
-- Attaching packages ----- tidyverse 1.3.1 --
```

```
v ggplot2 3.3.5      v purrr   1.0.1
v tibble  3.2.0      v dplyr   1.1.0
v tidyr   1.3.0      v stringr 1.5.0
v readr   2.1.1      v forcats 0.5.1
```

```
-- Conflicts ----- tidyverse_conflicts() --
```

```
x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
x dplyr::lag()     masks stats::lag()
```

If you ever find yourself *just* wanting `ggplot2` (i.e., and not all of the tidyverse packages), you can always load that individually:

```
library(ggplot2)
```

Understanding the Philosophy of ggplot2

Grammar of Graphics

`ggplot2` is built on the **Grammar of Graphics** concept, which breaks down a complex plot into a set of modular and composable components. Think of it as a language for describing how to create visualizations. The Grammar of Graphics consists of the following key components:

- **Data:** The dataset you want to visualize.
- **Aesthetic Mapping:** Mapping variables in your data to visual properties like color, size, or position.
- **Geometric Objects (Geoms):** The geometric shapes used to represent data points (e.g., points, lines, bars).
- **Faceting:** Dividing your data into subsets and creating separate plots for each subset.

- **Statistics:** Summarizing or transforming your data before plotting (e.g., calculating means or smoothing lines).
- **Coordinate System:** Defining the scales and coordinate system for your plot.

By combining and customizing these components, you have full control over the appearance and structure of your visualizations.

Layers Approach

ggplot2 uses a **layered approach** to create plots. You build a plot by adding layers, with each layer representing a different aspect of your data visualization. This approach encourages a modular and flexible workflow, allowing you to add or modify layers as needed.

Declarative Syntax

ggplot2 uses a declarative syntax, meaning you describe what you want your plot to look like rather than specifying how to create it step by step. This results in concise and expressive code, making it easier to convey your visualization intentions.

In the following sections, we'll explore how to apply these principles when creating line plots for single-participant research data using ggplot2. Let's put the Grammar of Graphics into practice!

Section 2: The Anatomy of a ggplot

Let's make our first ggplot! But first, let's simulate some data.

```
# Simulate single-participant data
weeks <- 1:10
scores <- rnorm(10, mean = 75, sd = 5)

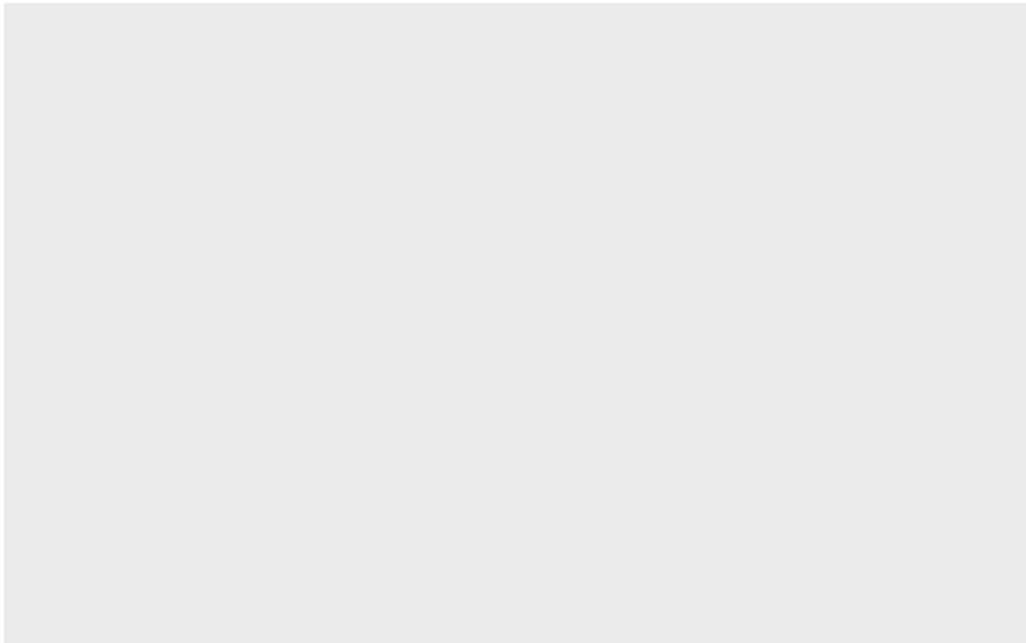
# Create a tibble
student_data <- tibble(week = weeks, score = scores)

# Display the first few rows of the data
student_data
```

```
# A tibble: 10 x 2
  week score
  <int> <dbl>
1     1  70.6
2     2  73.0
3     3  78.2
4     4  75.9
5     5  77.5
6     6  75.2
7     7  78.6
8     8  82.4
9     9  66.9
10    10  66.4
```

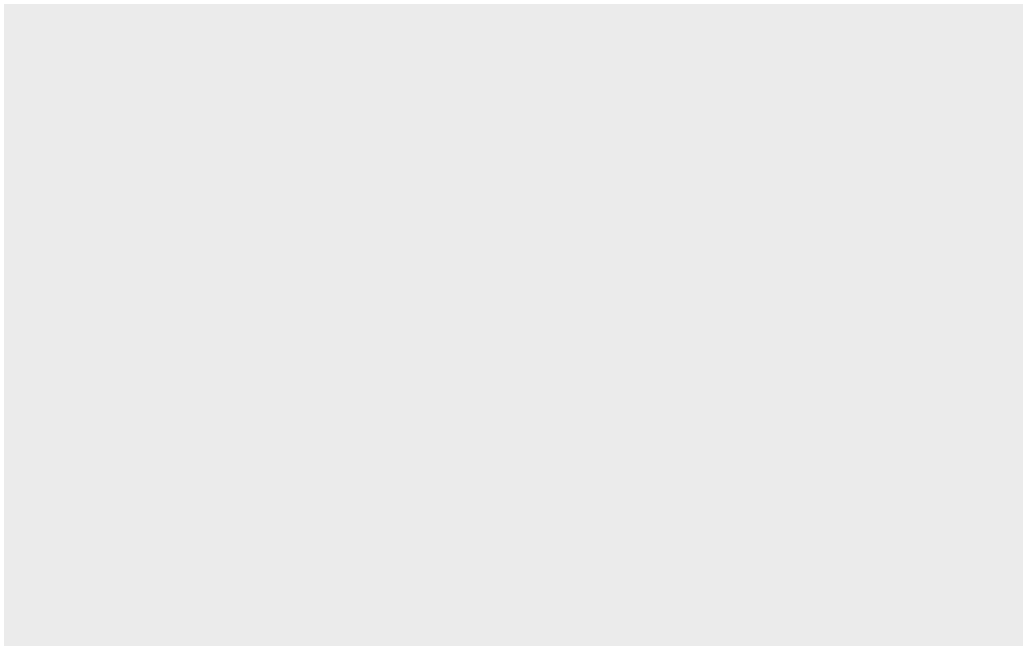
The main function for ggplots, is well, the `ggplot()` function! If you just run this function, you get a blank graph with nothing at all.

```
ggplot()
```



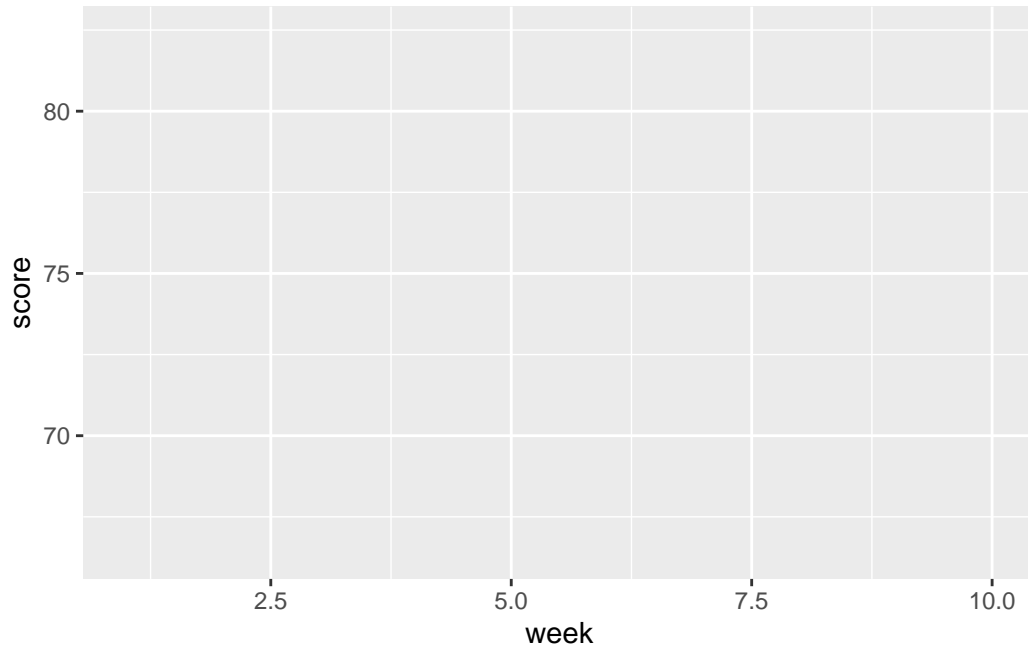
But that's no fun! Let's add some data to graph. We can do that using the `data` argument in the `ggplot` function.

```
ggplot(data = student_data)
```



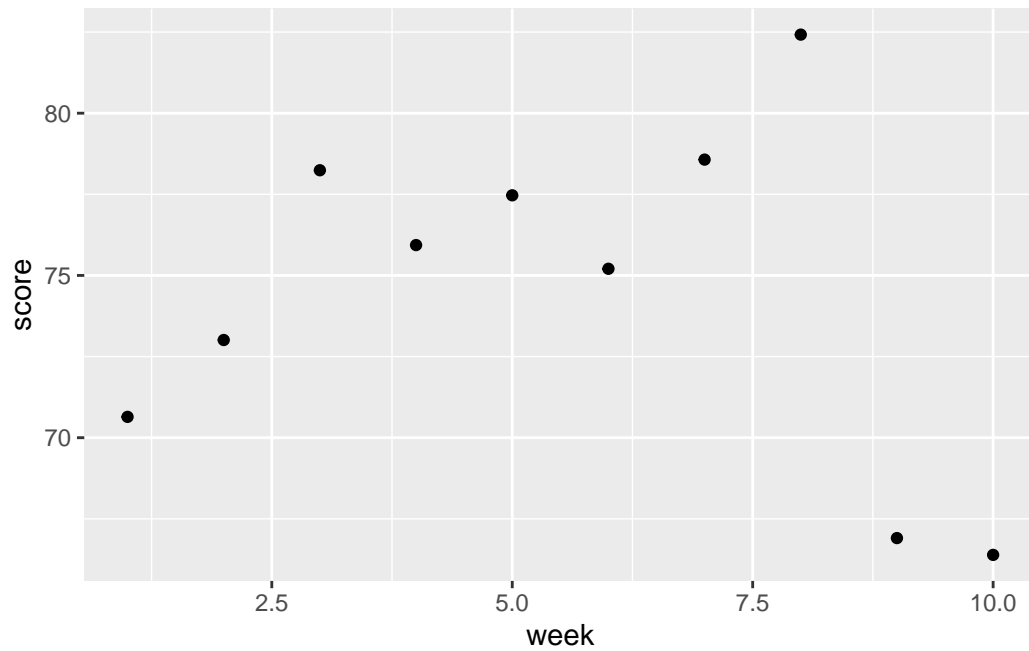
But wait, there isn't anything showing! We have to tell `ggplot` how to turn our data into graphical components, for example, what goes on the x- and y-axes. We do this process using the aesthetics function `aes()`. Here, we will tell it that the `week` variable should go on the x-axis and the `score` data is what we want on the y-axis.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score))
```



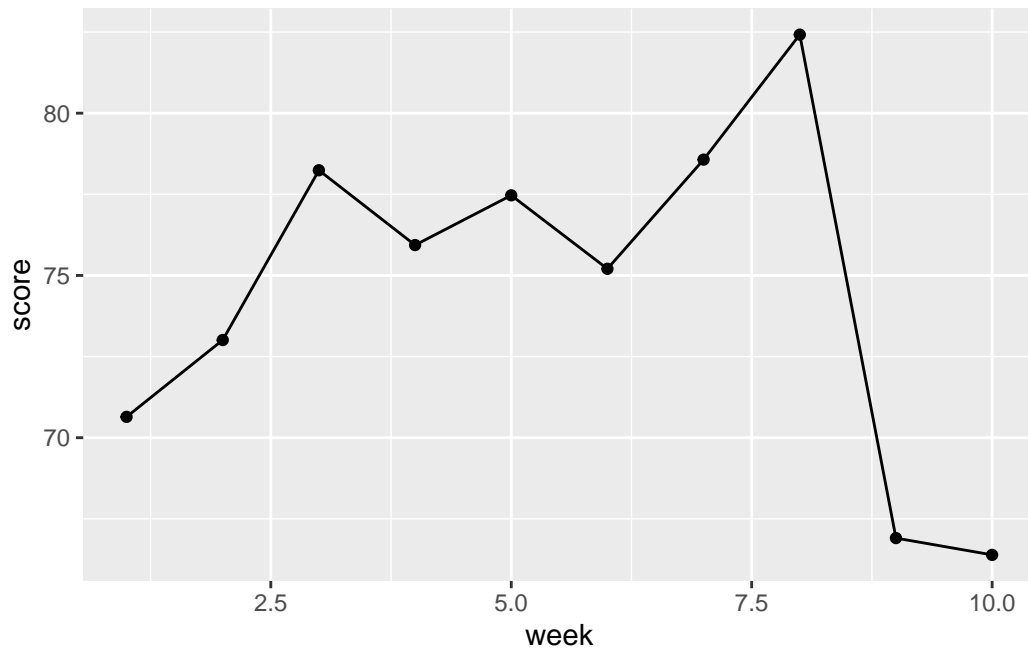
Now, you see that we have x- and y-axes. Next, we will tell `ggplot` how we want to map the data. We add a layer of visualization onto our ggplot using a `geom`. There are many types of geoms, including bar charts, box-plots, and almost any other types of chart. For now, we'll just focus on the ones that are most useful for visualizing single-participant data. Let's start by adding some points that represent our data. We add layers onto our graph by adding a `+`, followed by additional functions.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point()
```



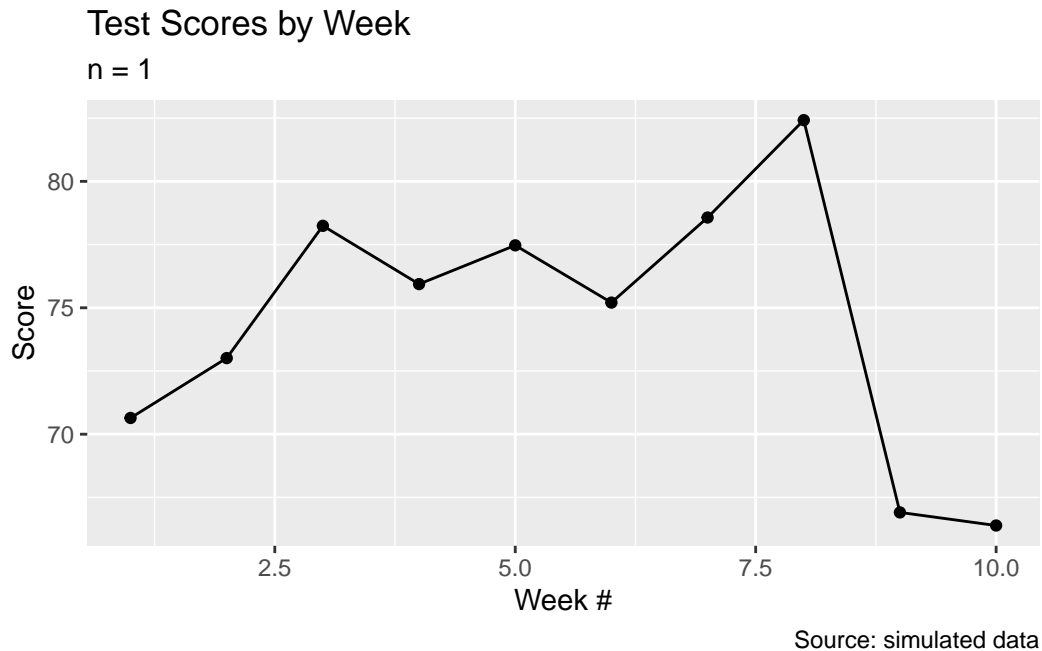
Now, we can see our single participant's scores across all 10 weeks. But, it's a little hard to make out what's going on. Let's add lines connecting all of the points.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line()
```

That's looking pretty good! Let's add some labels to the graph using the `labs` function.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



Congrats, you just made a good-looking ggplot!

Section 3: The Aesthetics Function

In the previous section, we used the aesthetics function, `aes`, to map our data to the x- and y-axes. But it can map to other components of our graph. Let's simulate some data again with additional variables that we may want to incorporate visually into our ggplot.

```
# Simulate single-participant data
weeks <- 1:10
scores <- rnorm(10, mean = 75, sd = 5)
scores_math <- rnorm(10, mean = 75, sd = 15)
scores_reading <- rnorm(10, mean = 65, sd = 5)

teacher <- factor(sample(c("Annie", "Brandon"), size = 10, replace = TRUE))
class_size <- sample(5:20, size = 10, replace = TRUE)
teacher_evaluation <- ordered(sample(1:5, size = 10, replace = TRUE),
                              levels = 1:5,
                              labels = c("Very Dissatisfied", "Dissatisfied", "Neutral", "Satisfied", "Very Satisfied"))

# Create a tibble
```

```
student_data <- tibble(week = weeks, score = scores, teacher = teacher, class_size = class_size)

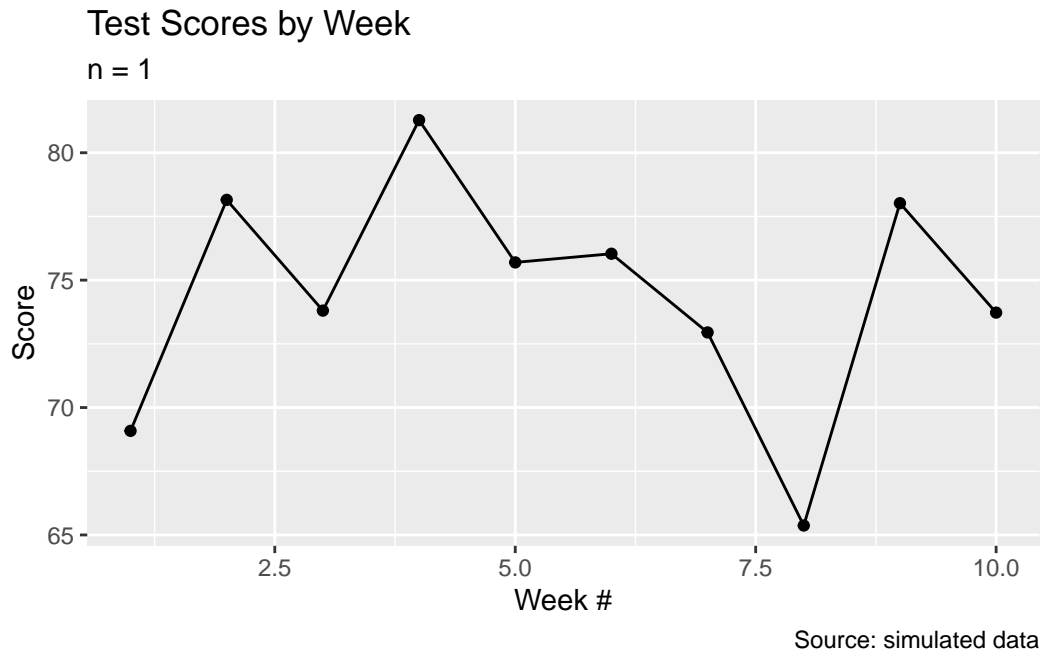
# Display the first few rows of the data
student_data
```

```
# A tibble: 10 x 7
```

	week	score	teacher	class_size	teacher_eval	scores_math	scores_reading
	<int>	<dbl>	<fct>	<int>	<ord>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	1	69.1	Annie	9	Satisfied	77.6	68.8
2	2	78.1	Annie	6	Satisfied	98.2	67.3
3	3	73.8	Brandon	12	Very Satisfied	63.3	69.1
4	4	81.3	Annie	9	Very Satisfied	83.9	65.7
5	5	75.7	Brandon	11	Satisfied	75.3	64.1
6	6	76.0	Brandon	16	Very Dissatisfied	61.4	70.6
7	7	72.9	Annie	12	Neutral	81.5	62.8
8	8	65.4	Brandon	9	Very Dissatisfied	79.2	68.4
9	9	78.0	Annie	12	Very Satisfied	60.2	71.0
10	10	73.7	Annie	6	Neutral	89.5	66.5

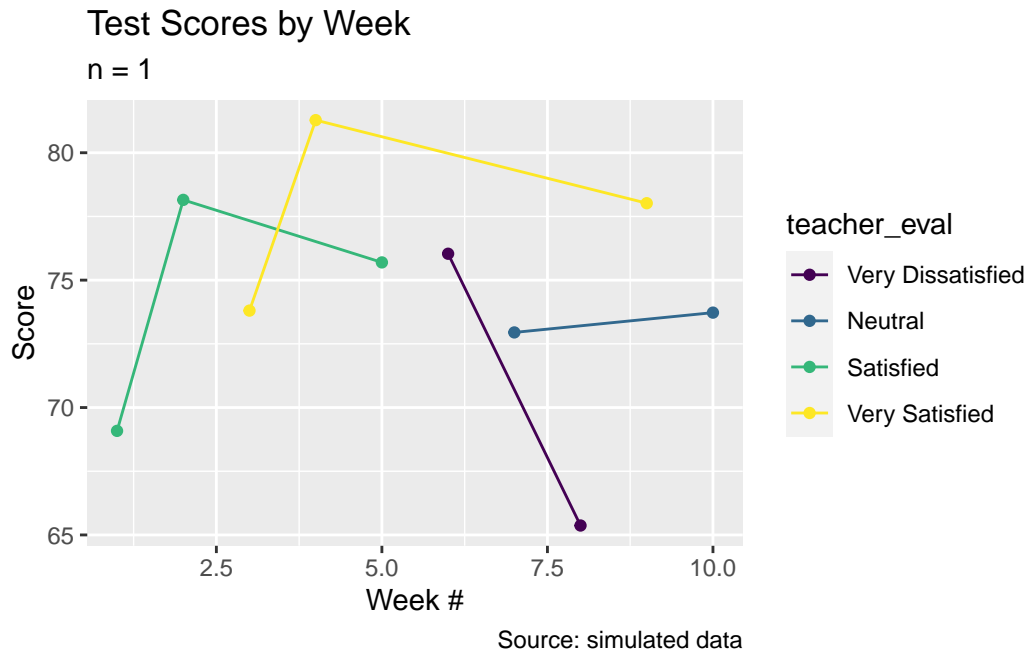
Let's start from our graph from before.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_line() +
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",
       subtitle = "n = 1",
       x = "Week #",
       y = "Score",
       caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



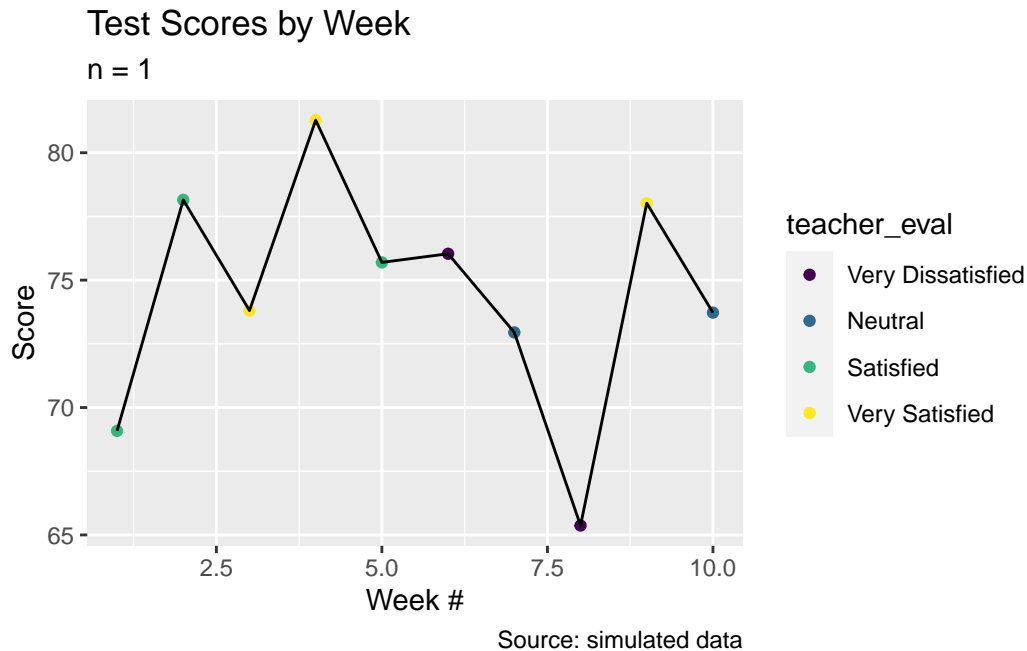
How may we want to incorporate these additional variables? Perhaps, we want to visualize the evaluations given by the teachers for our student. This visualization could tell us if the score and teacher evaluation are related. Let's do that by changing the color of the points based on the evaluations. We do that by using additional arguments in the `aes` function, in this case, the `color` argument.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score, color = teacher_eval)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



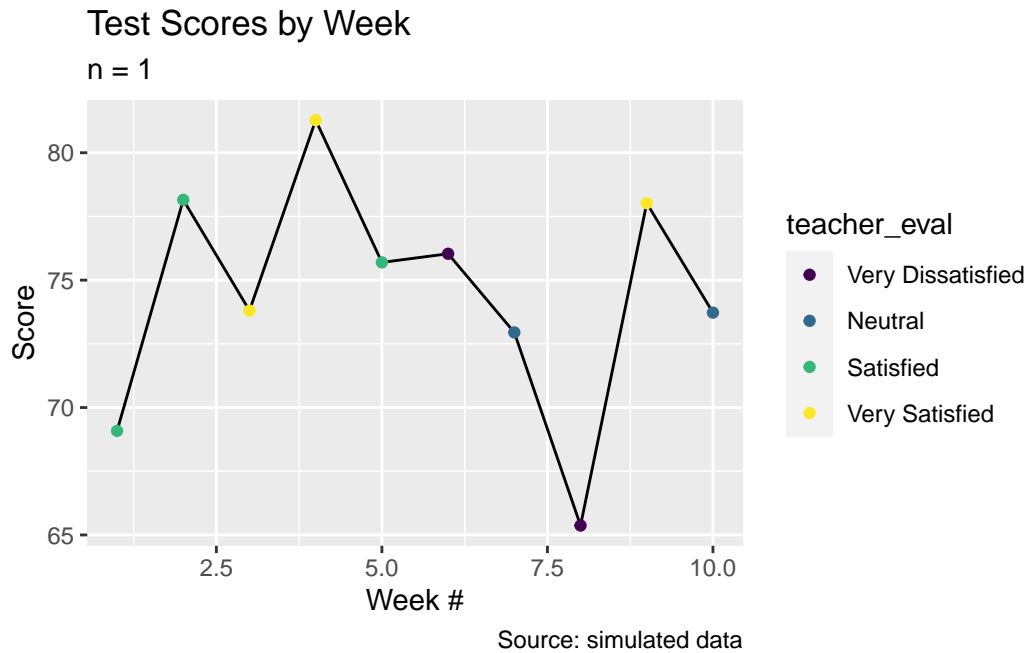
That doesn't look right! Well, when you use the `aes` function in the initial `ggplot` call, it applies the aesthetics to *all* geoms in your graph. In this case, it thinks we want to just connect lines that are the same color. In these cases, we may need to use an `aes` function in an individual geom, like this:

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point(aes(color = teacher_eval)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



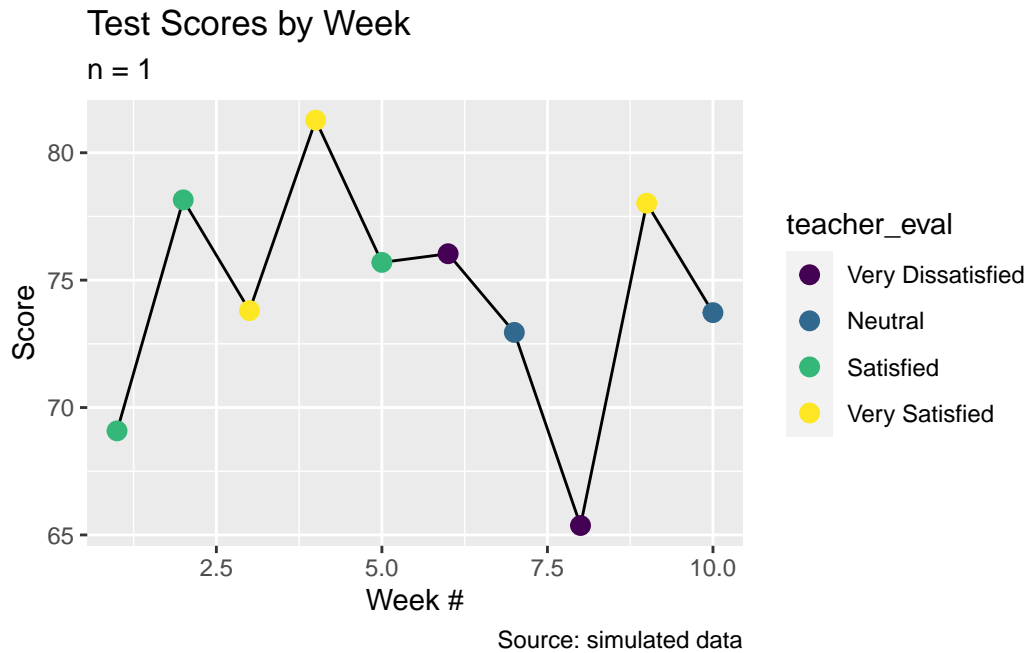
That's better, but it still doesn't look very good. Why not? Well, the black lines are covering up our colored points. This problem occurs because ggplots are sensitive to the order in which you add components. In this case, it adds the `geom_point` layer first, then the `geom_line` layer on top. So, let's switch the ordering of the two layers.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point(aes(color = teacher_eval)) +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



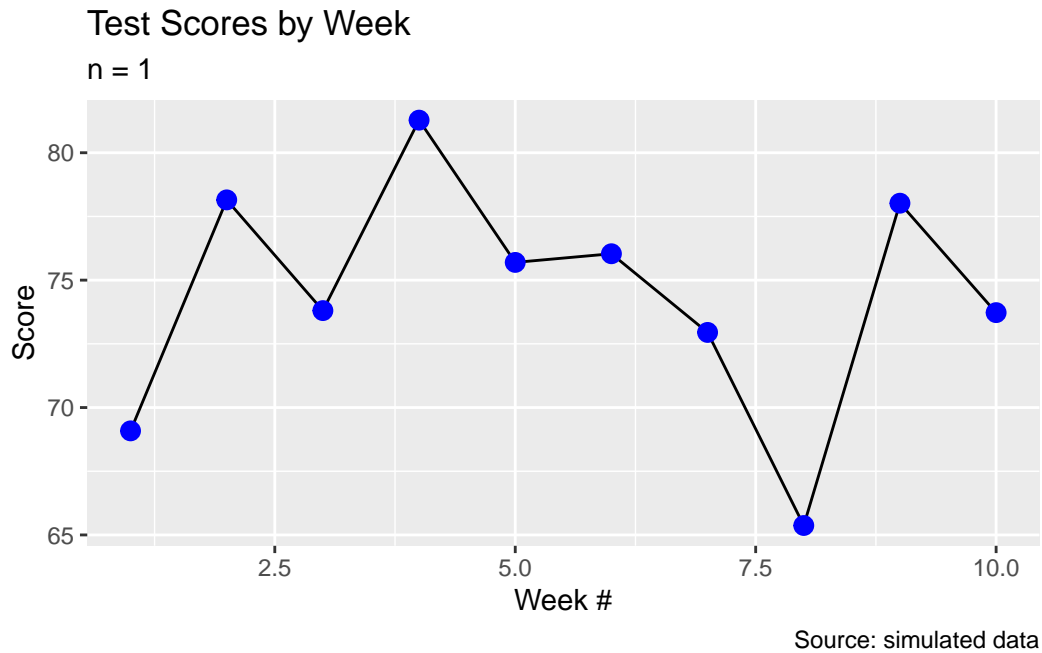
Nice! Let's say that we wanted to make the points a little bigger so that we can see them better. We can do that using one of the arguments that can be found in the `geom_point` function, `size`.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point(aes(color = teacher_eval), size = 3) +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



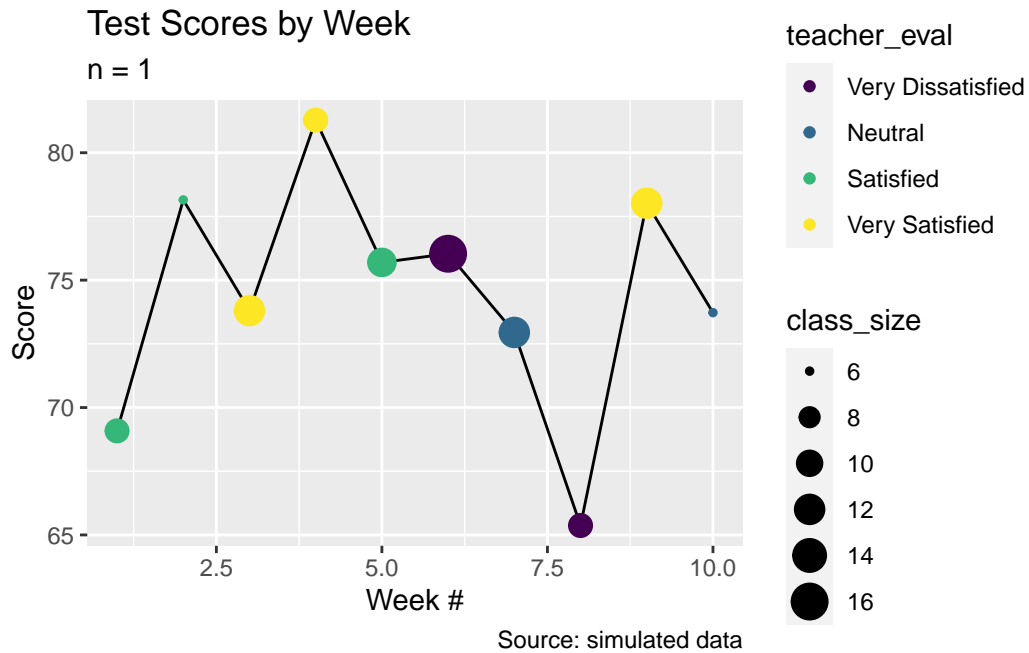
Note that arguments *outside* of the `aes` function are static—they are not tied to a variable. For example, we could turn all of the points blue by using the `color` argument *outside* of the `aes` function.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point(color = "blue", size = 3) +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```

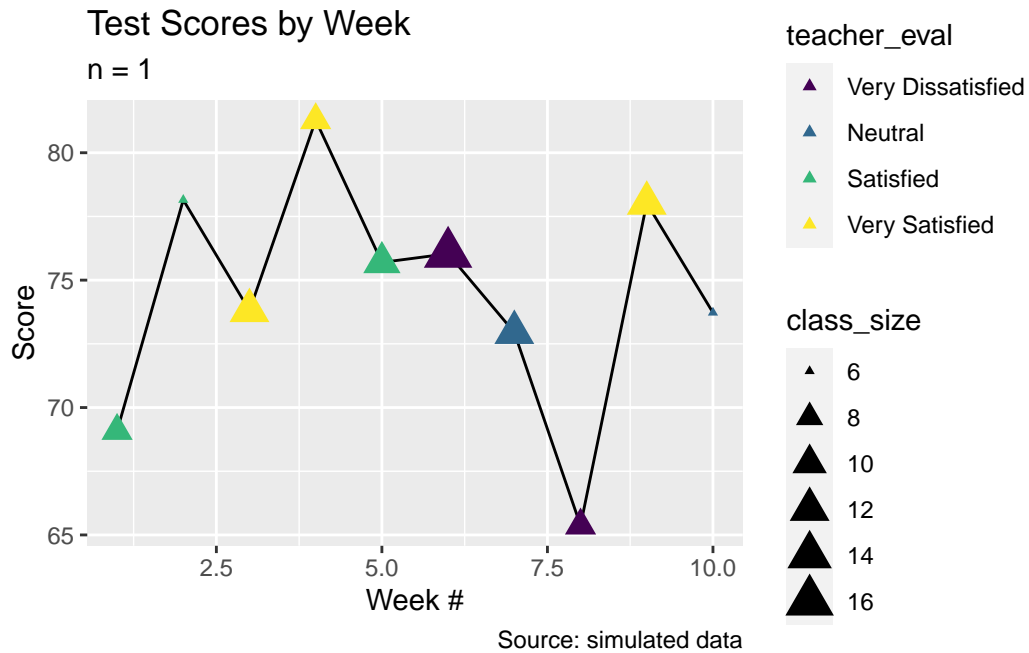
Getting arguments *inside* versus *outside* the `aes` function is very common. So, just remember, arguments inside the `aes` function are variable and are tied to your data. Arguments outside are static. For example, the size of the points doesn't need to be static either, it can be tied to our data, for example, on class size.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point(aes(color = teacher_eval, size = class_size)) +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



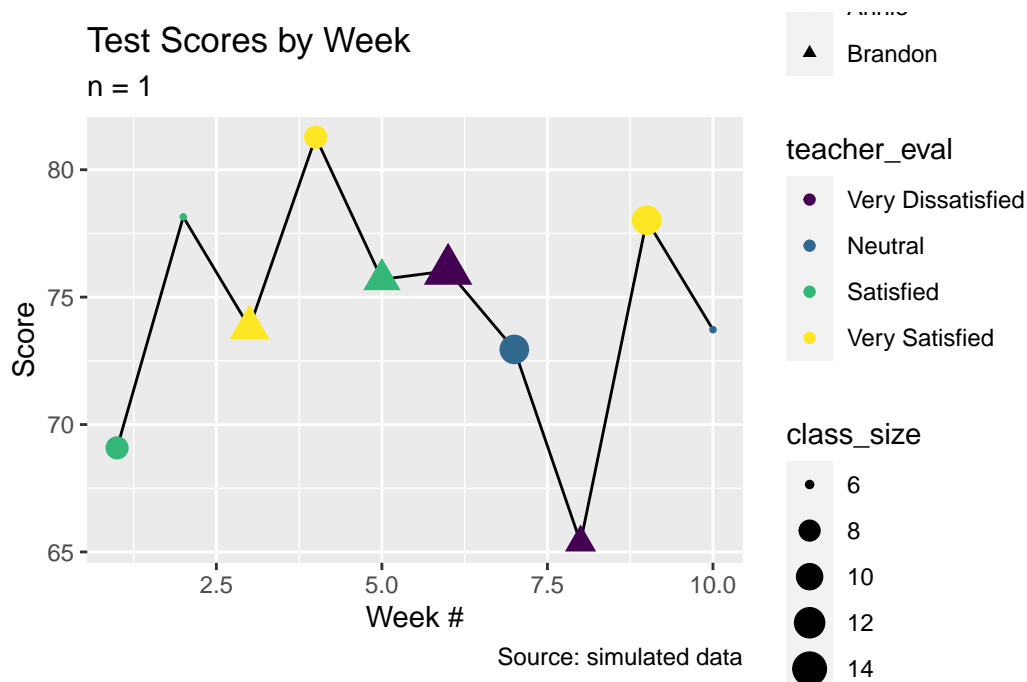
Another commonly-used argument is `shape`. Again, this can be used statically outside of the `aes` function.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point(aes(color = teacher_eval, size = class_size), shape = "triangle") +
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",
        subtitle = "n = 1",
        x = "Week #",
        y = "Score",
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



Or dynamically inside of the `aes`, for example, to have each teacher be a different shape.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point(aes(color = teacher_eval, size = class_size, shape = teacher)) +
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",
        subtitle = "n = 1",
        x = "Week #",
        y = "Score",
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```



One other important `aes` argument is `group`. This argument is used when you have different groups of variables that you want visualized together. For example, let's say we want to visual the math and reading scores in our data separately. As a reminder, here is what the data look like, with math and reading scores in two different columns.

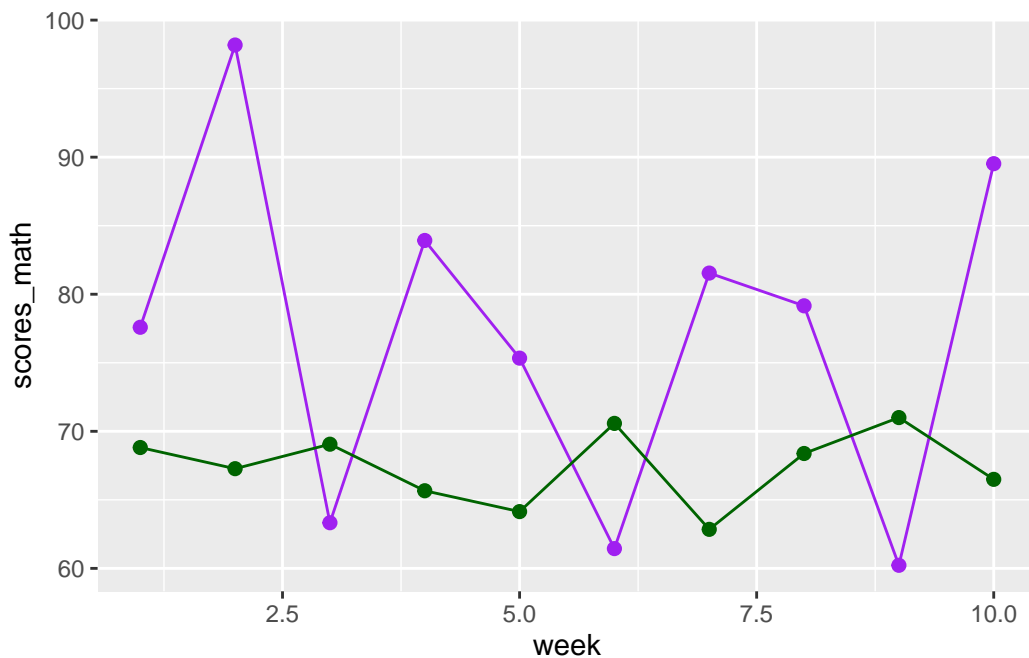
`student_data`

```
# A tibble: 10 x 7
  week score teacher class_size teacher_eval scores_math scores_reading
  <int> <dbl> <fct>      <int> <ord>          <dbl>          <dbl>
1     1  69.1 Annie         9 Satisfied       77.6          68.8
2     2  78.1 Annie         6 Satisfied       98.2          67.3
3     3  73.8 Brandon       12 Very Satisfied  63.3          69.1
4     4  81.3 Annie         9 Very Satisfied  83.9          65.7
5     5  75.7 Brandon       11 Satisfied       75.3          64.1
6     6  76.0 Brandon       16 Very Dissatisfied 61.4          70.6
7     7  72.9 Annie       12 Neutral        81.5          62.8
8     8  65.4 Brandon         9 Very Dissatisfied 79.2          68.4
9     9  78.0 Annie       12 Very Satisfied  60.2          71.0
10    10  73.7 Annie         6 Neutral        89.5          66.5
```

One inefficient way to visualize these two different groups of scores would be to have to have

separate geoms for each column. For example:

```
ggplot(data = student_data) +  
  geom_point(aes(x = week, y = scores_math), color = "purple", size = 2) +  
  geom_point(aes(x = week, y = scores_reading), color = "darkgreen", size = 2) +  
  geom_line(aes(x = week, y = scores_math), color = "purple") +  
  geom_line(aes(x = week, y = scores_reading), color = "darkgreen")
```



But sometimes your data is in a tidy/ long format, where each score is a separate row/ observation and there is an additional variable/ column indicating what type of score it is. We will transform our data manually to be in that format.

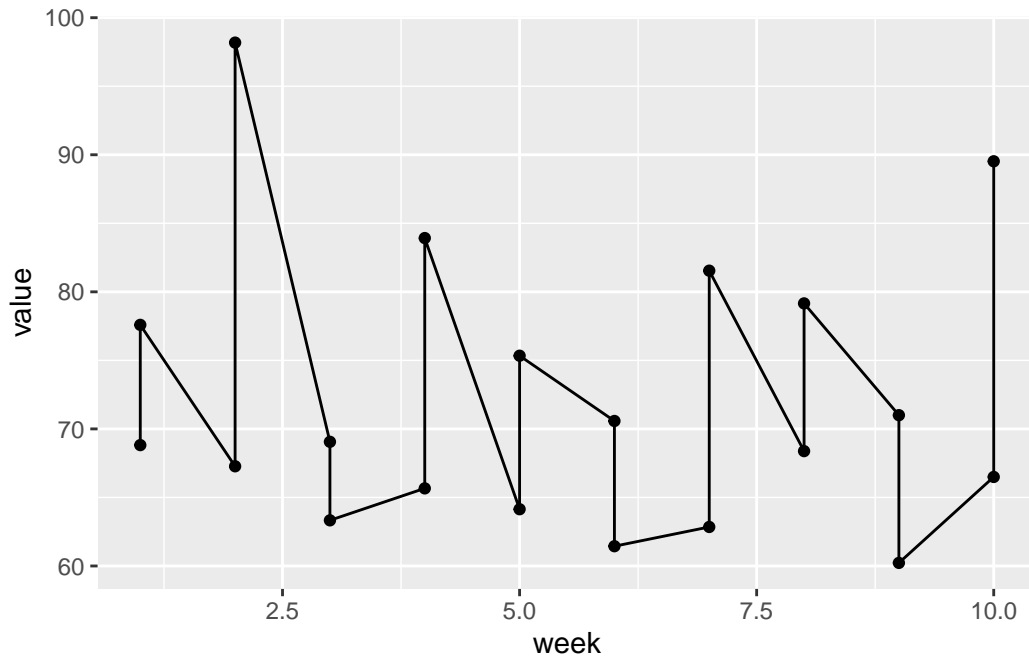
```
student_data_long <- student_data %>%  
  pivot_longer(cols = c("scores_reading", "scores_math"))  
  
student_data_long
```

```
# A tibble: 20 x 7  
   week score teacher class_size teacher_eval name      value  
   <int> <dbl> <fct>      <int> <ord>      <chr>      <dbl>  
1     1   69.1 Annie          9 Satisfied scores_reading 68.8
```

2	1	69.1	Annie	9	Satisfied	scores_math	77.6
3	2	78.1	Annie	6	Satisfied	scores_reading	67.3
4	2	78.1	Annie	6	Satisfied	scores_math	98.2
5	3	73.8	Brandon	12	Very Satisfied	scores_reading	69.1
6	3	73.8	Brandon	12	Very Satisfied	scores_math	63.3
7	4	81.3	Annie	9	Very Satisfied	scores_reading	65.7
8	4	81.3	Annie	9	Very Satisfied	scores_math	83.9
9	5	75.7	Brandon	11	Satisfied	scores_reading	64.1
10	5	75.7	Brandon	11	Satisfied	scores_math	75.3
11	6	76.0	Brandon	16	Very Dissatisfied	scores_reading	70.6
12	6	76.0	Brandon	16	Very Dissatisfied	scores_math	61.4
13	7	72.9	Annie	12	Neutral	scores_reading	62.8
14	7	72.9	Annie	12	Neutral	scores_math	81.5
15	8	65.4	Brandon	9	Very Dissatisfied	scores_reading	68.4
16	8	65.4	Brandon	9	Very Dissatisfied	scores_math	79.2
17	9	78.0	Annie	12	Very Satisfied	scores_reading	71.0
18	9	78.0	Annie	12	Very Satisfied	scores_math	60.2
19	10	73.7	Annie	6	Neutral	scores_reading	66.5
20	10	73.7	Annie	6	Neutral	scores_math	89.5

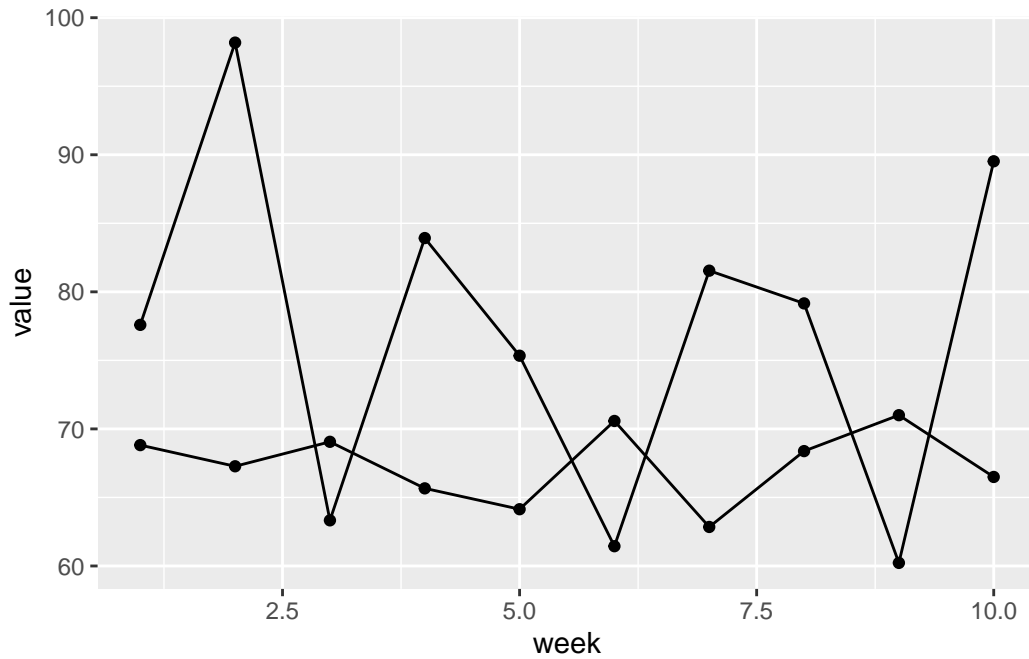
We can no plot this data much more efficiently. But first let's see what happens if we don't use the `group` argument.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point()
```



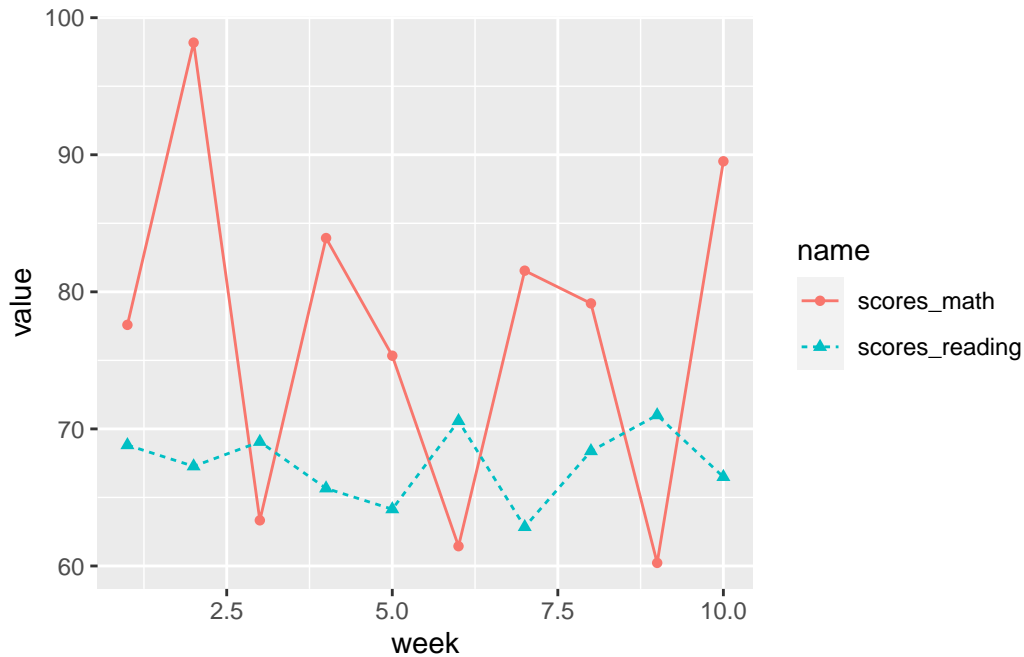
The plot looks like this because it doesn't know which points belong in which group, so it's trying to connect them all sequentially. You can use the `group` argument to specify which points belong to which groups.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, group = name)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point()
```



Of course, in this case, you'd probably want to change the shape or color to distinguish the two groups.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, group = name, shape = name, color = name)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point()
```

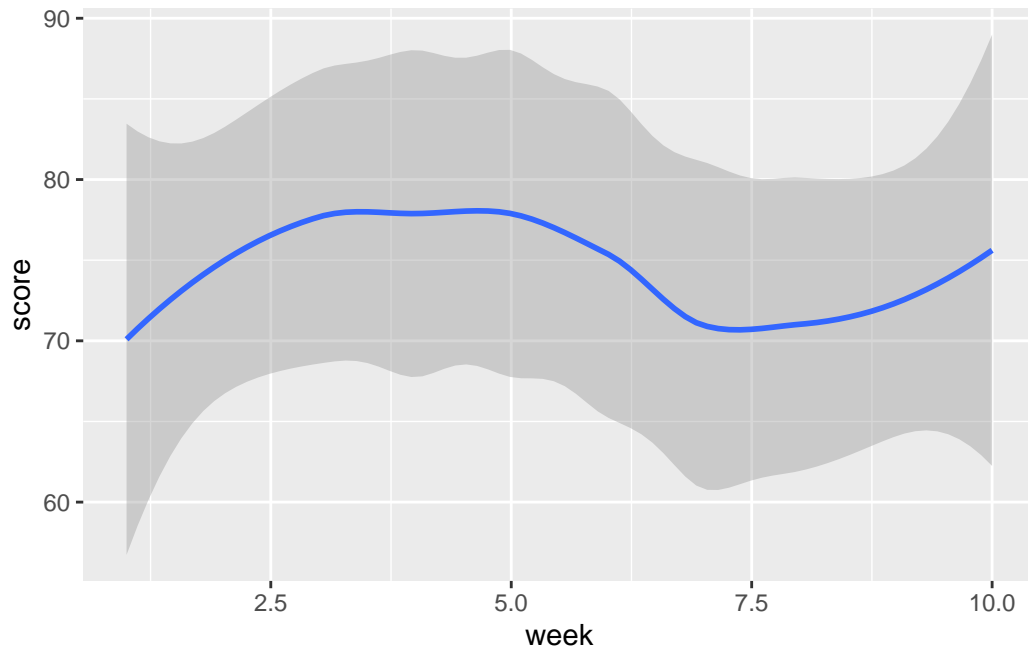



Section 4: Visualizing Statistical Inferences & Summarizations

Ggplot can also do statistical inferences and summaries for you. One of the most common examples of this functionality is visualizing trend lines (with error bars), which primarily can be used via the `geom_smooth` function

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_smooth()
```

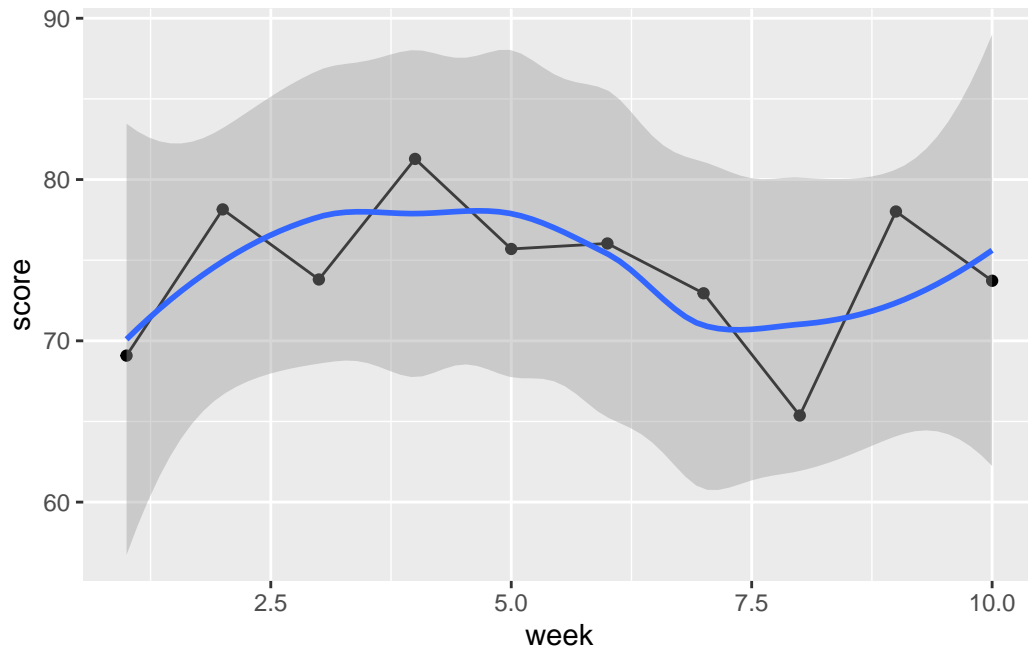
`geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'



And remember, multiple `geoms` can be used together.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_smooth()
```

`geom_smooth()` using `method = 'loess'` and formula `'y ~ x'`

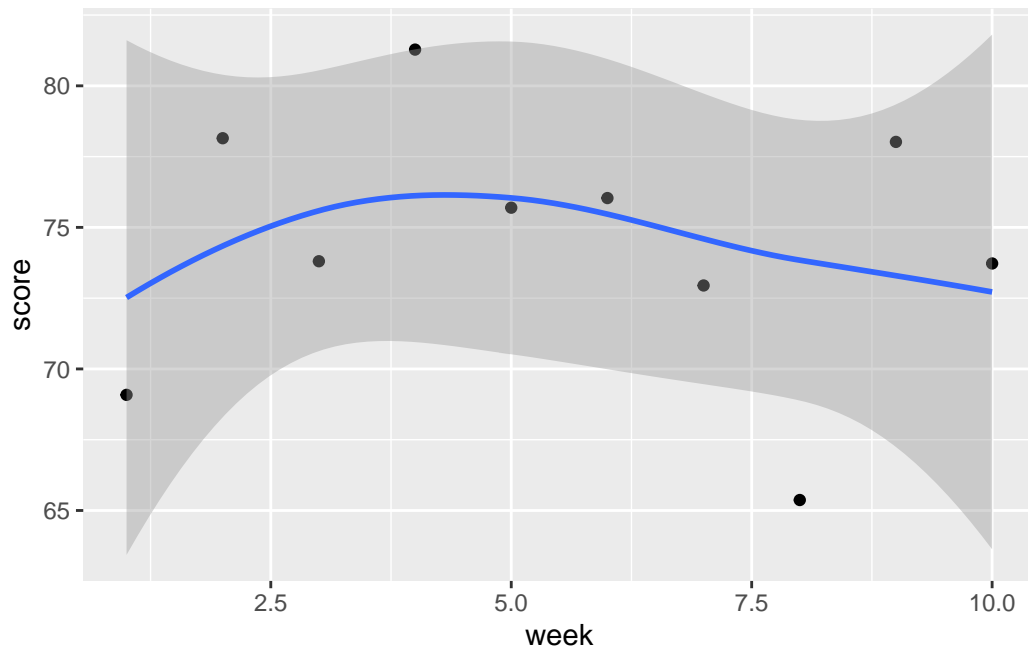


By default, the `geom_smooth` function estimates a loess regression on your data. You can adjust some of the parameters of this function, for example, the “smoothness” of the line using the `span` argument.

For example, to have it be smoother with a larger `span` (>1).

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_smooth(span = 2)
```

`geom_smooth()` using `method = 'loess'` and formula `'y ~ x'`



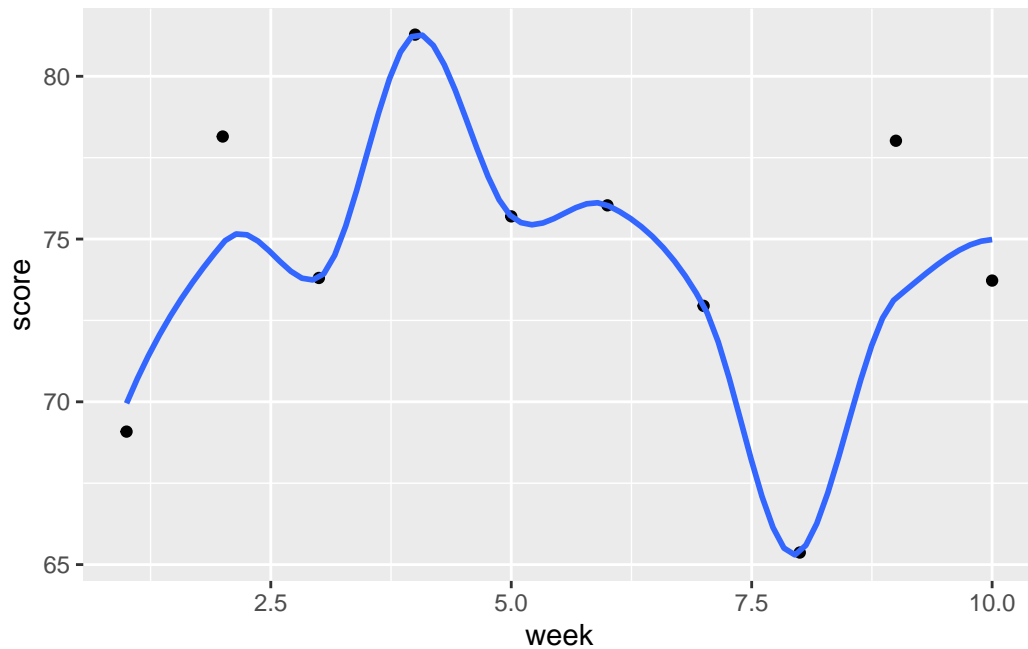
Or to be more “spiky” with a `span < 1`.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(span = .5)
```

``geom_smooth()`` using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'

Warning in `stats::qt(level/2 + 0.5, pred$df)`: NaNs produced

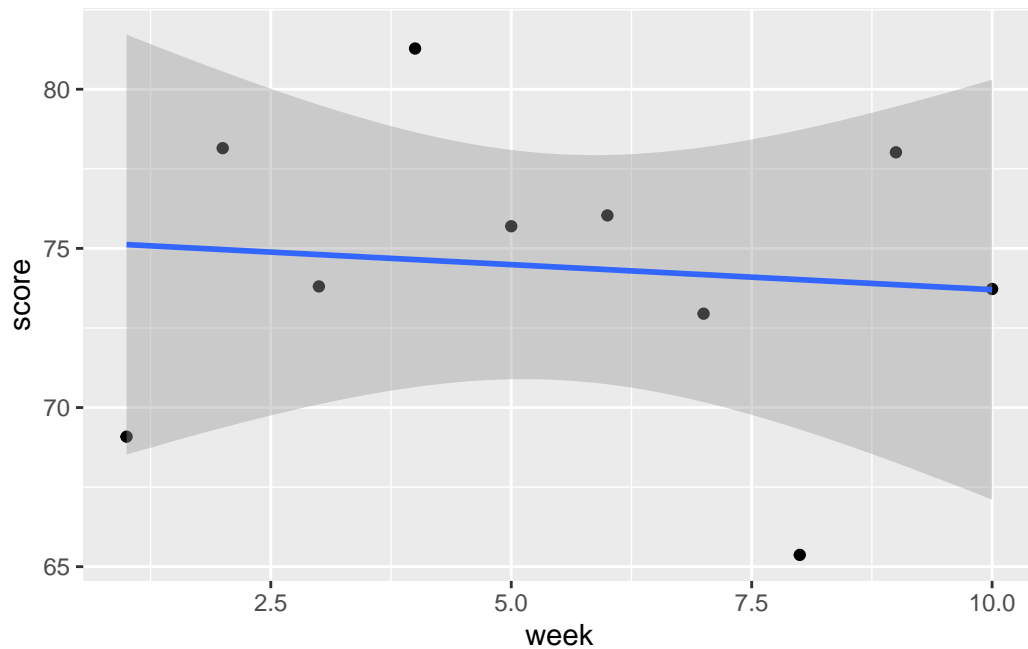
Warning in `max(ids, na.rm = TRUE)`: no non-missing arguments to max; returning -Inf



In addition to a loess regression, there are other methods that can be used and accessed via the `method` argument. For example, you can fit a linear model.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_smooth(method = "lm")
```

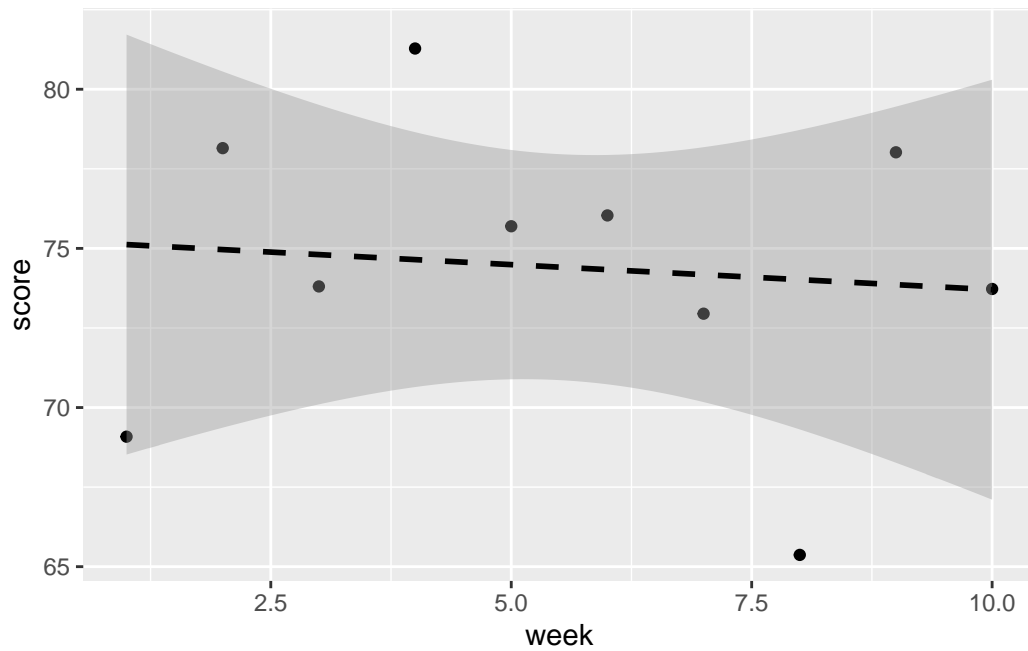
``geom_smooth()`` using formula `'y ~ x'`



Just like the other geoms, they can be customized in a variety of ways. For example, we can change the color of the line.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", color = "black", linetype = "dashed")
```

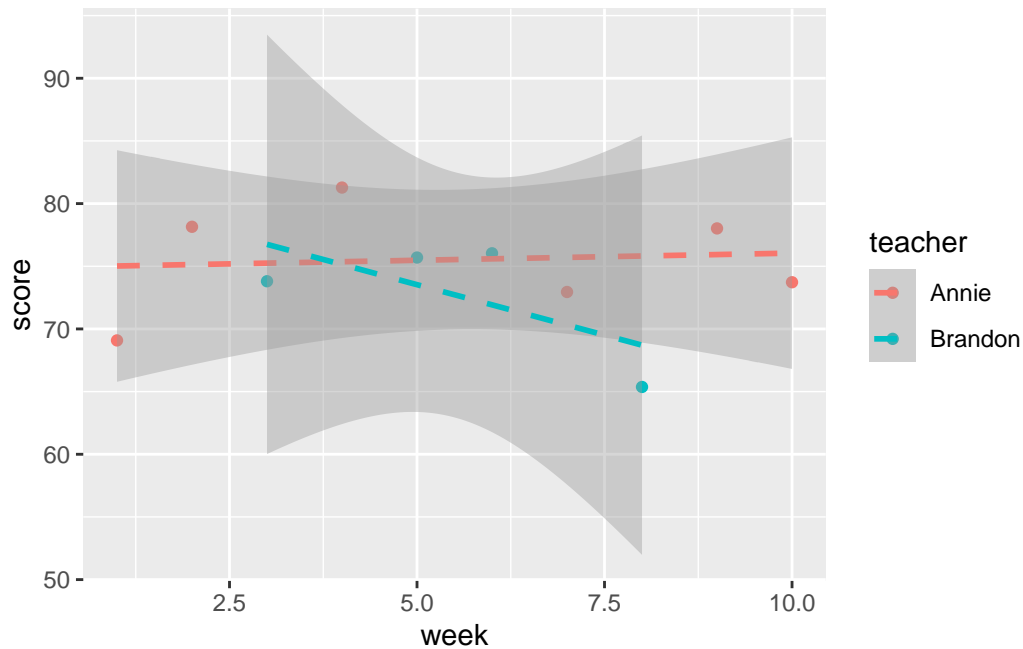
`geom_smooth()` using formula 'y ~ x'



Or, we can fit these regression on different groups.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = score, color = teacher)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_smooth(method = "lm", linetype = "dashed")
```

`geom_smooth()` using formula 'y ~ x'



Other `geoms` can be used to visualize statistical outputs, such as uncertainty. There are a variety of functions to visualize uncertainty. Let's simulate some more data to add more subjects besides math and reading.

```
# Simulate single-participant data
weeks <- 1:10
scores <- rnorm(10, mean = 75, sd = 5)
scores_math <- rnorm(10, mean = 75, sd = 15)
scores_reading <- rnorm(10, mean = 65, sd = 5)
scores_science <- rnorm(10, mean = 70, sd = 5)
scores_art <- rnorm(10, mean = 75, sd = 5)
scores_music <- rnorm(10, mean = 75, sd = 10)

# Create a tibble
student_data <- tibble(week = weeks, scores_math = scores_math, scores_reading = scores_reading, scores_science = scores_science, scores_art = scores_art, scores_music = scores_music)

# Display the first few rows of the data
student_data_long <- student_data %>%
  pivot_longer(cols = c(scores_math, scores_reading, scores_science, scores_art, scores_music))

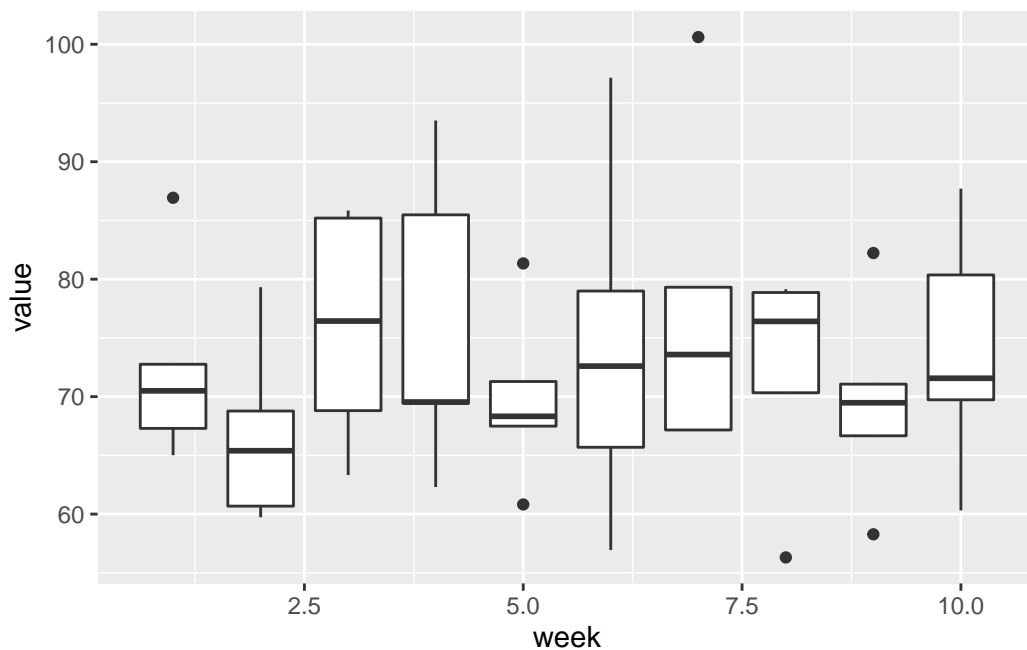
student_data_long
```



```
# A tibble: 50 x 4
  week teacher name      value
  <int> <fct>   <chr>    <dbl>
1     1 Annie scores_math  65.0
2     1 Annie scores_reading 67.3
3     1 Annie scores_science 72.8
4     1 Annie scores_art    70.5
5     1 Annie scores_music  86.9
6     2 Annie scores_math  59.7
7     2 Annie scores_reading 60.7
8     2 Annie scores_science 68.8
9     2 Annie scores_art    79.3
10    2 Annie scores_music  65.4
# ... with 40 more rows
```

For example, on the long data, we can make box plots (make sure to use the `group` argument!).

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, group = week)) +
  geom_boxplot()
```



Let's continue and average our data down at the weekly level and estimate uncertainty.

```

student_data_summarized <- student_data_long %>%
  group_by(week) %>%
  summarize(mean = mean(value),
             se = sd(value) / sqrt(n())) %>%
  mutate(ci_low = mean - (se * 1.96),
         ci_high = mean + (se * 1.96))

student_data_summarized

```

```

# A tibble: 10 x 5
   week mean    se ci_low ci_high
  <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
1     1  72.5  3.84  65.0  80.0
2     2  66.8  3.54  59.9  73.7
3     3  75.9  4.44  67.2  84.6
4     4  76.1  5.78  64.7  87.4
5     5  69.9  3.34  63.3  76.4
6     6  74.3  6.79  61.0  87.6
7     7  77.6  6.19  65.4  89.7
8     8  72.2  4.28  63.8  80.6
9     9  69.5  3.86  62.0  77.1
10    10  73.9  4.69  64.7  83.1

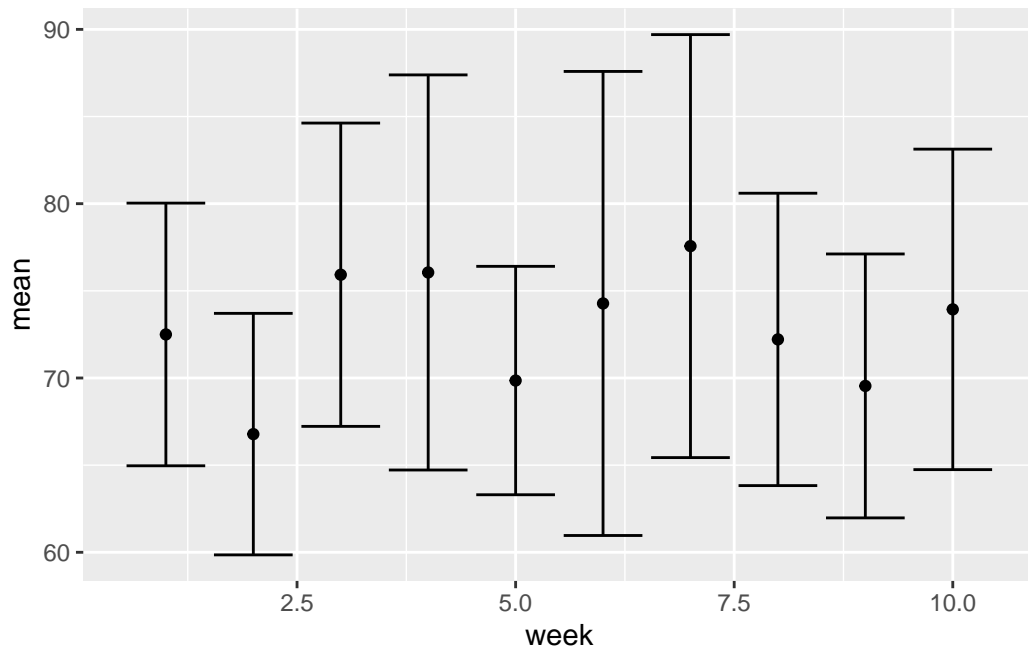
```

Note that some `geoms` require additional `aes` arguments. For example, here is how you would add error bars using our data.

```

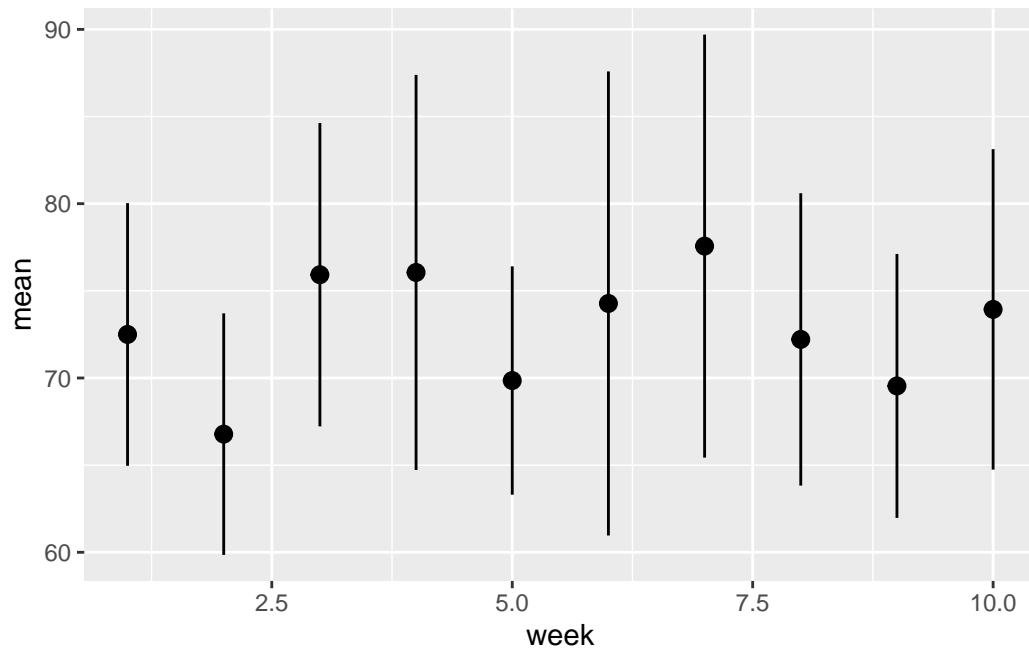
ggplot(data = student_data_summarized, aes(x = week, ymin = ci_low, y = mean, ymax = ci_high)) +
  geom_errorbar() +
  geom_point()

```

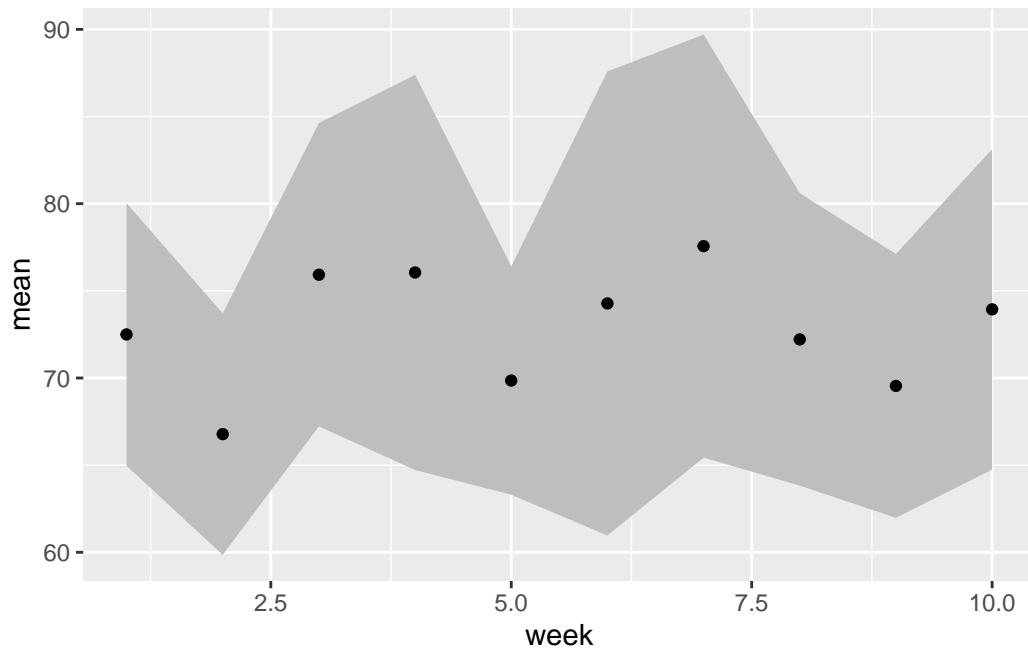


Other options include `linranges` (`pointranges`) and `ribbons`. Note that the `aes` function is staying the same in all of these examples, we're just changing the `geoms` because the fundamental mapping of our data is remaining the same.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_summarized, aes(x = week, ymin = ci_low, y = mean, ymax = ci_high))
  geom_pointrange()
```



```
ggplot(data = student_data_summarized, aes(x = week, ymin = ci_low, y = mean, ymax = ci_high)) +  
  geom_ribbon(fill = "grey") +  
  geom_point()
```



Section 5: Upping Your ggplot Game

Annotations

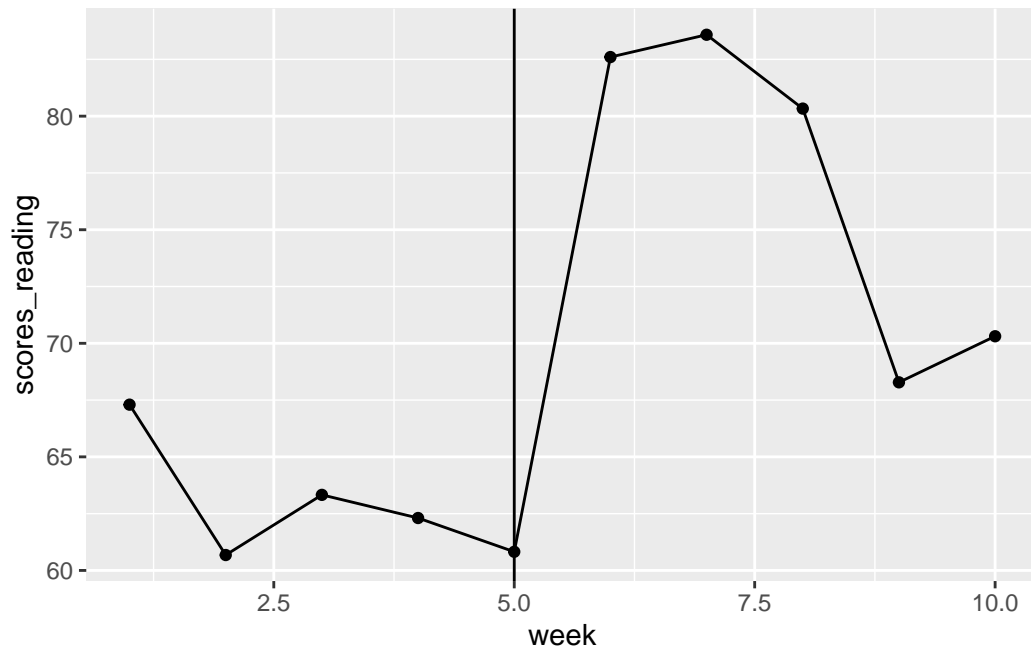
Annotations are a way to add additional information to your graphs. Here, we will go over some of the most useful annotations.

```
student_data <- student_data %>%
  mutate(period = if_else(week <= 5, "pre-treatment", "post-treatment"),
         scores_reading = if_else(period == "post-treatment", scores_reading + 10, scores_
         intervention = if_else(week == 5, "Intervention", NA))
```

Vertical Lines

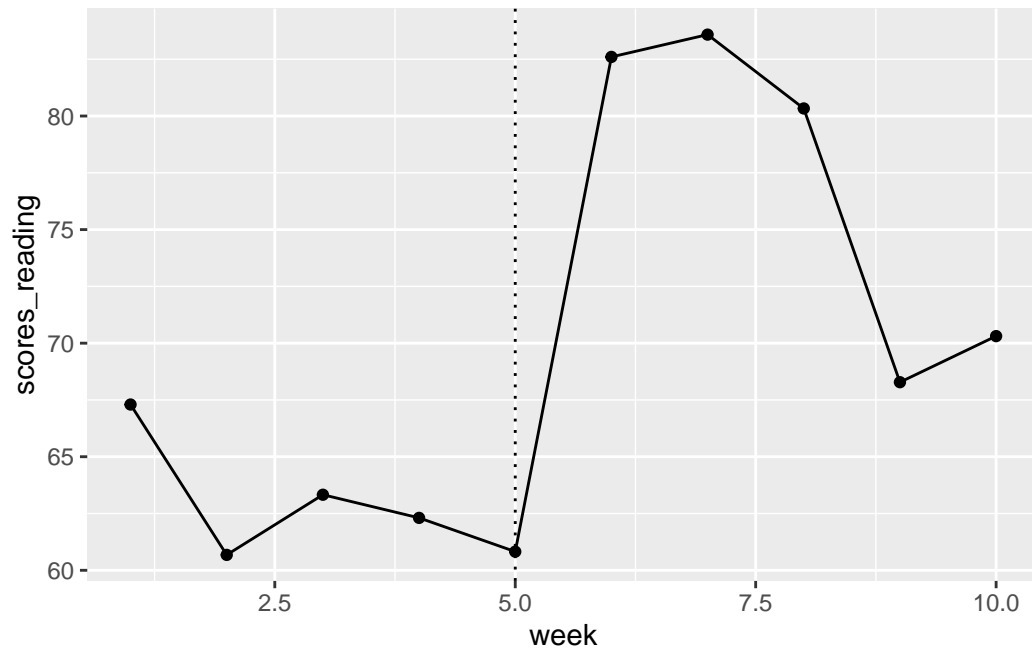
Let's imagine that we implemented an intervention on week 5 and we want to visualize this intervention using a vertical line. We can use the `geom_vline` function. You can set the x-intercept of the vertical line using the `xintercept` argument in `aes`.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  geom_vline(aes(xintercept = 5))
```



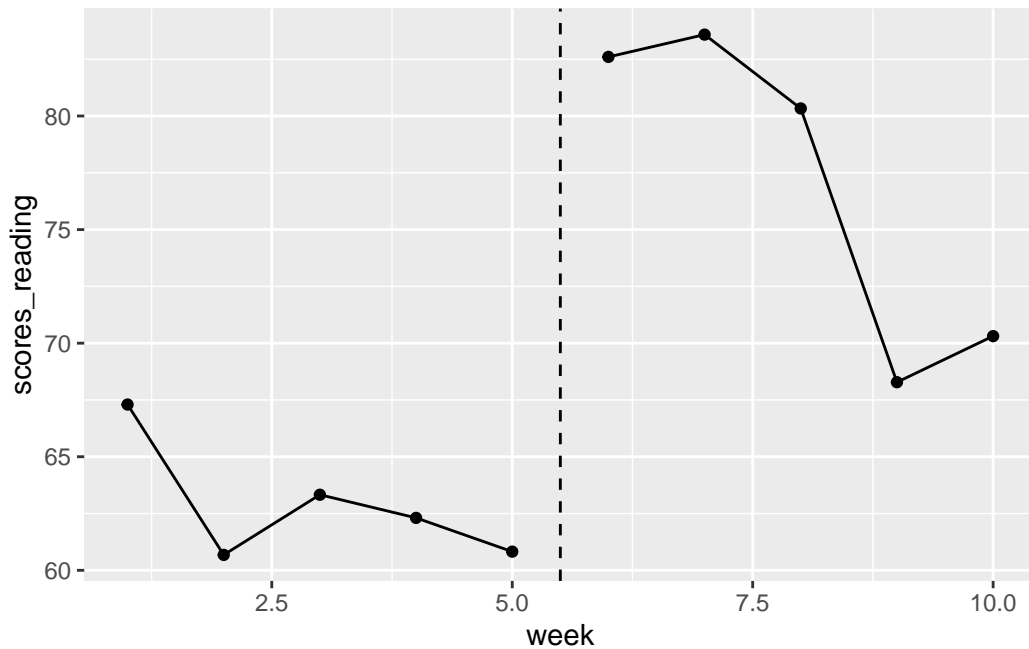
These lines can be customized just like other graphical components.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  geom_vline(aes(xintercept = 5), linetype = "dotted")
```



Remember, we can always use the `group` argument in the `aes` function to separate groups.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading, group = period)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_vline(aes(xintercept = 5.5), linetype = "dashed")
```



Horizontal Lines

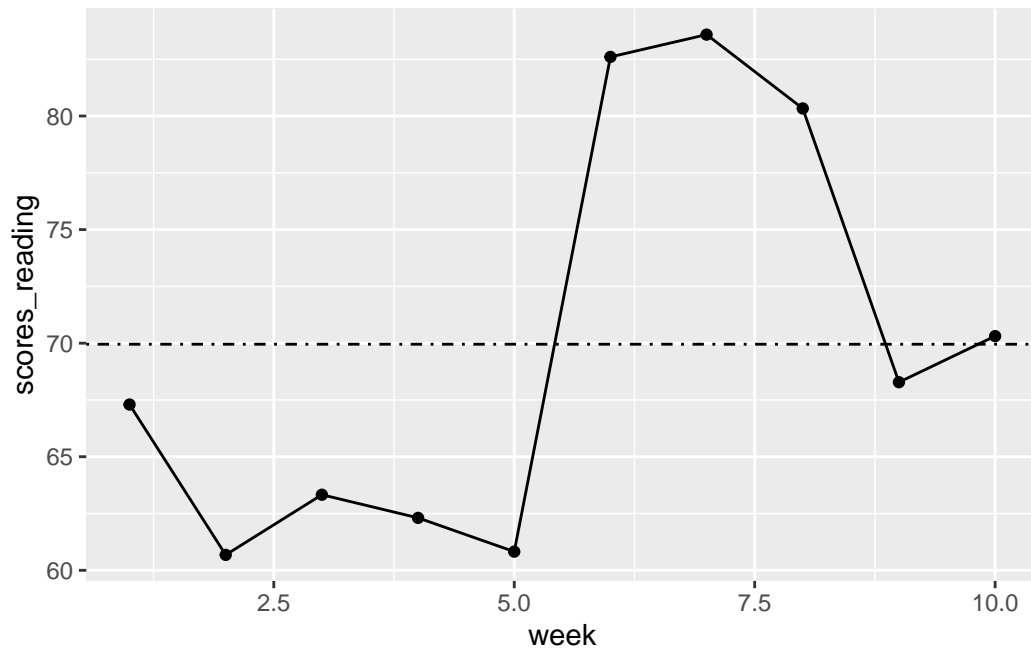
You can add horizontal lines via the `geom_hline` function. For example here, we will calculate the mean of the scores and plot the mean as a horizontal line.

```
scores_reading_mean <- student_data %>%  
  summarize(mean = mean(scores_reading)) %>%  
  pull(mean)
```

```
scores_reading_mean
```

```
[1] 69.95415
```

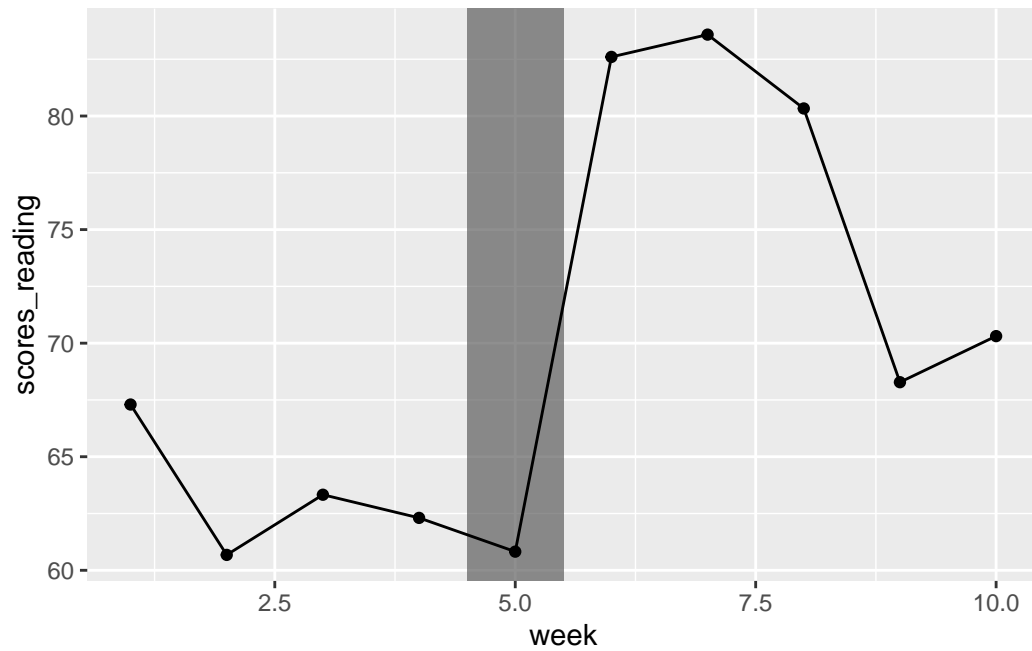
```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_hline(aes(yintercept = scores_reading_mean), linetype = "dotdash")
```

Rectangles

You can also draw shapes, for example, rectangles. Here, we draw a rectangle and shade it to represent the period in which the intervention was delivered.

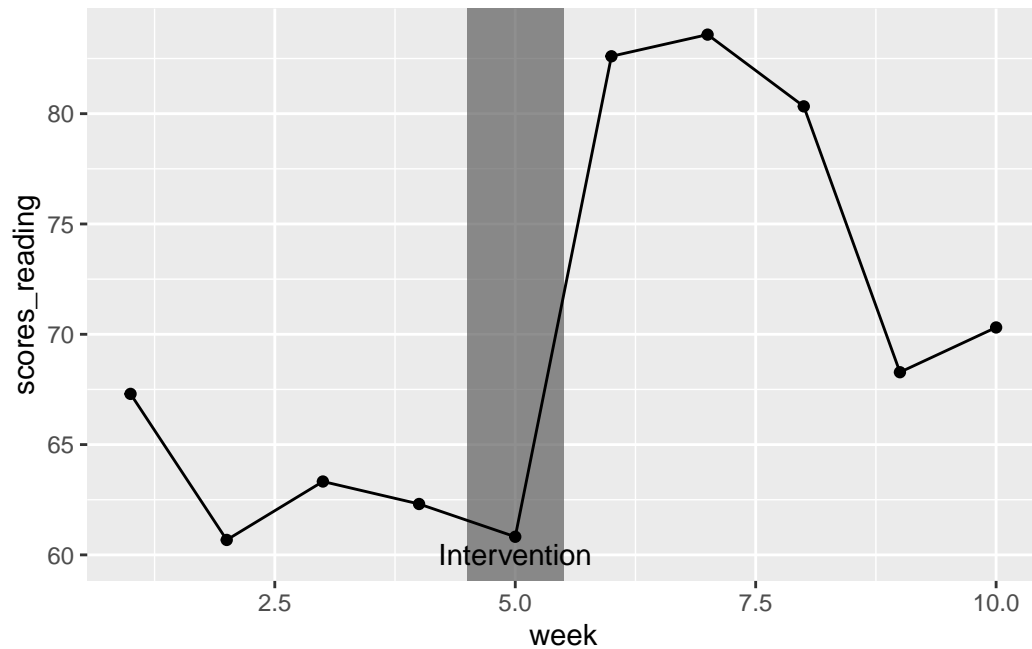
```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +  
  geom_rect(aes(xmin = 4.5, xmax = 5.5, ymin = -Inf, ymax = Inf), alpha = .1) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point()
```



Text

We can also add text.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +  
  geom_rect(aes(xmin = 4.5, xmax = 5.5, ymin = -Inf, ymax = Inf), alpha = .1) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point() +  
  annotate("text", x = 5, y = 60, label = "Intervention")
```

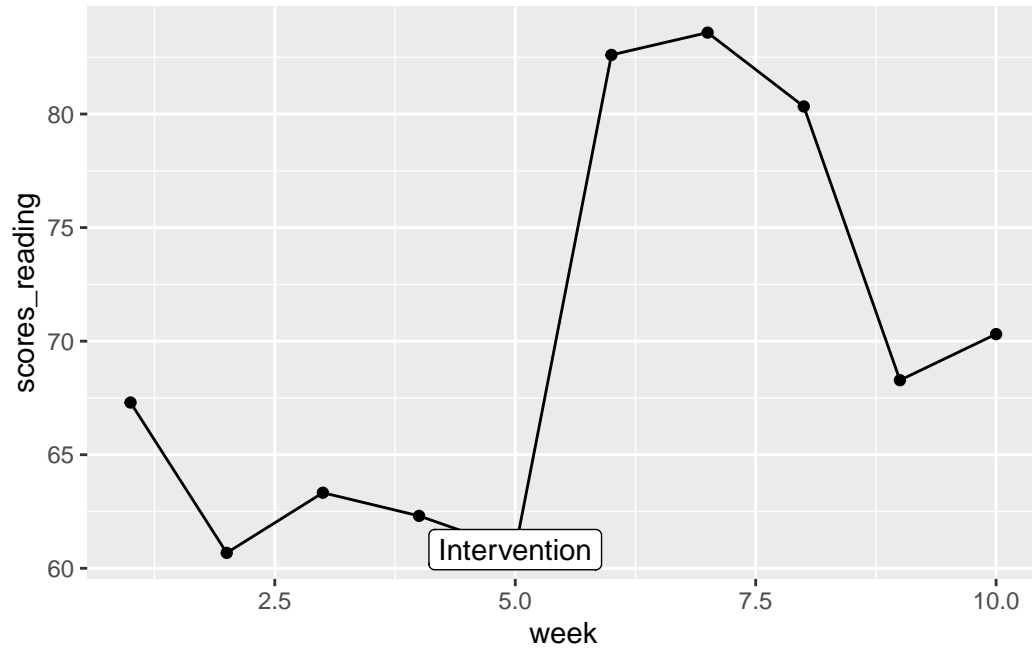


Point Labels

We can also add labels. Make sure you use the `label` argument in `aes`.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading, label = intervention)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_label()
```

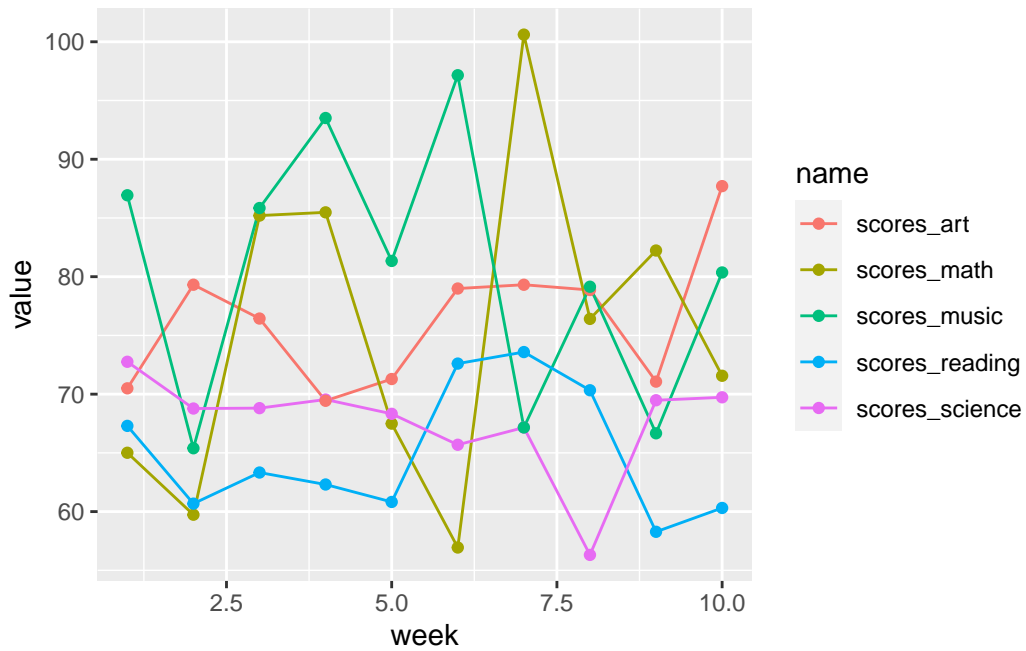
Warning: Removed 9 rows containing missing values (geom_label).



Faceting

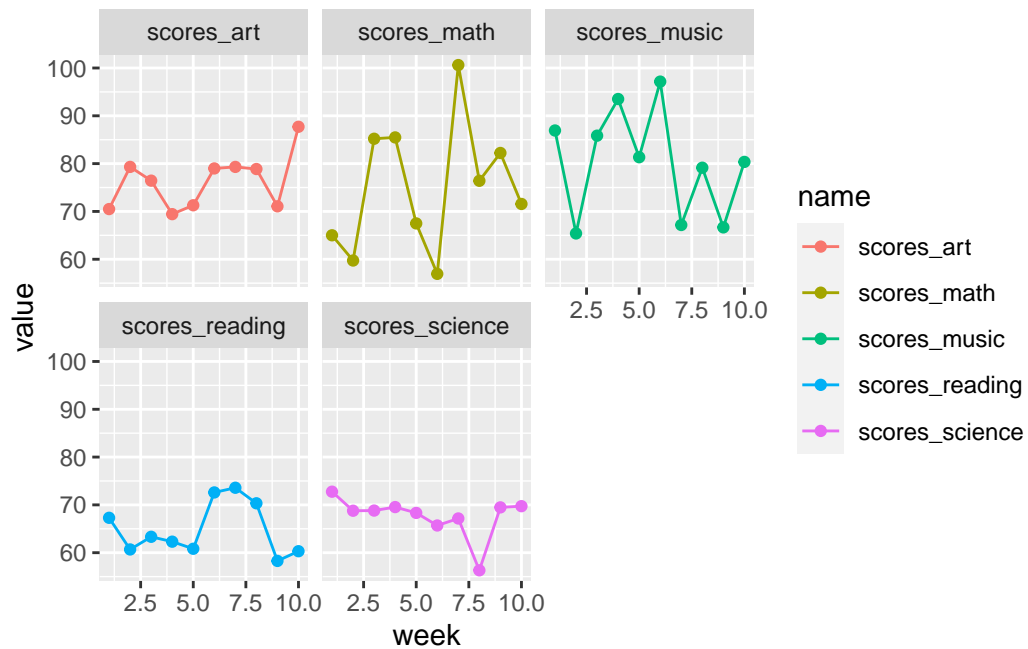
Faceting allows you to break your data up into different plots on a grid. For example, if we wanted to visualize all the different scores, we would have a messy graph that you can't make much out of.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, color = name)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point()
```



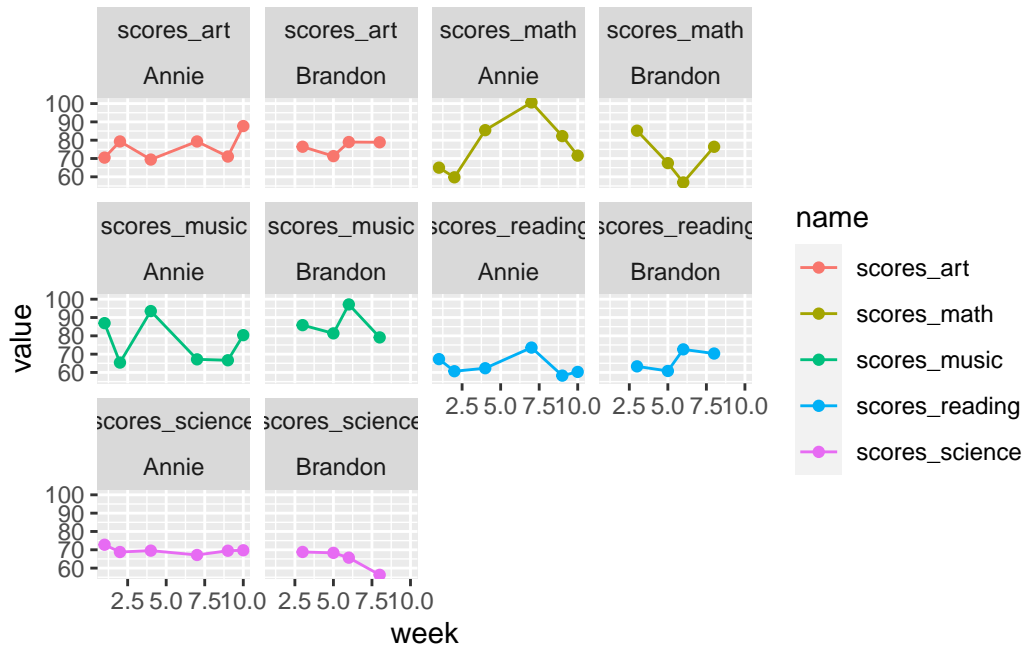
So we can “facet” the data into smaller individual plots. You can facet by a single variable.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, color = name)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  facet_wrap(name~.)
```



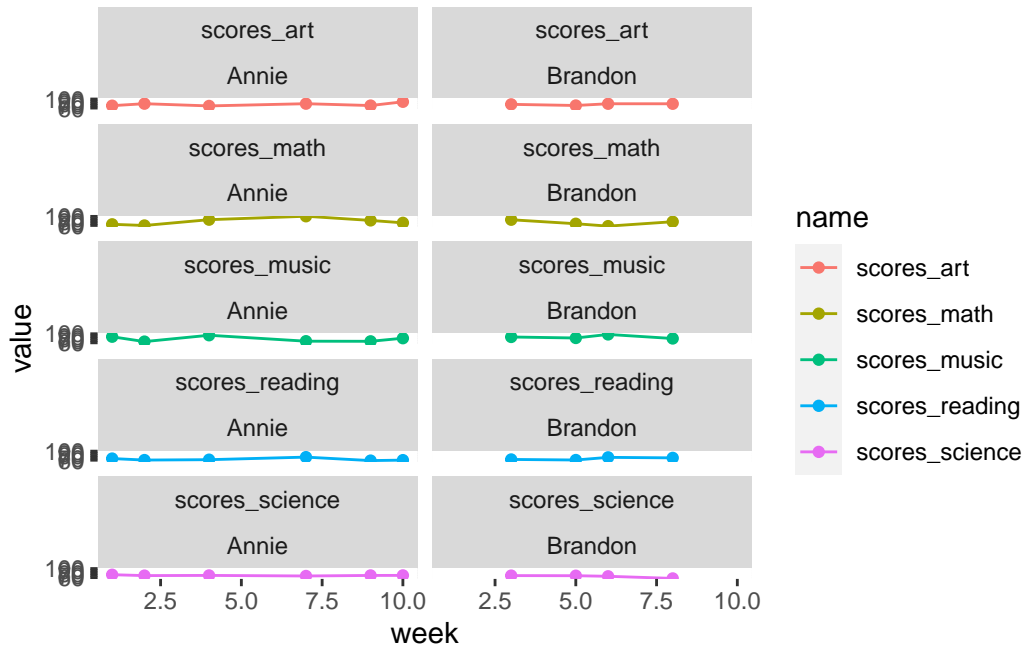
Or by multiple variables.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, color = name)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  facet_wrap(name~teacher)
```



You can easily adjust the number of columns to fit your analysis needs. For example, in this graph, you can more easily compare scores across teachers for the same subject.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, color = name)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  facet_wrap(name~teacher, ncol = 2)
```



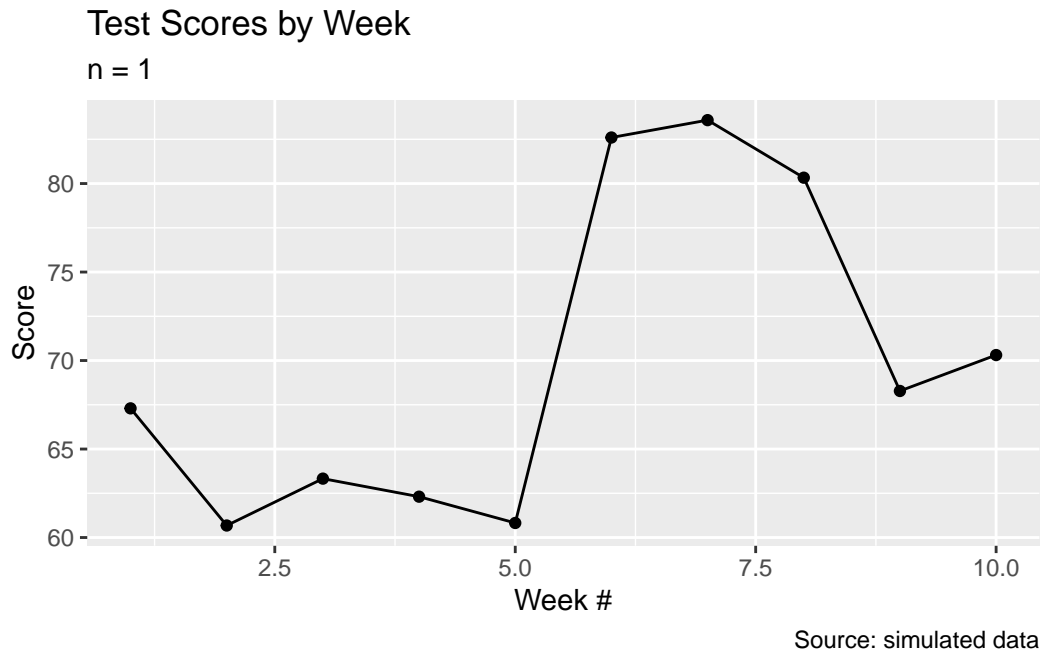
Section 6: Making your ggplots look nice

We've done a lot of work to make some visualizations for single-participant studies. However, the graphs can definitely use some tweaking. Here, I'll show you some of the more common ones.

Plot Labels

We added labels to our graph earlier, but here they are again. The easiest way to add labels is to use the `labs` function. You don't have to use all of the options within the `labs` function as there are many to choose from.

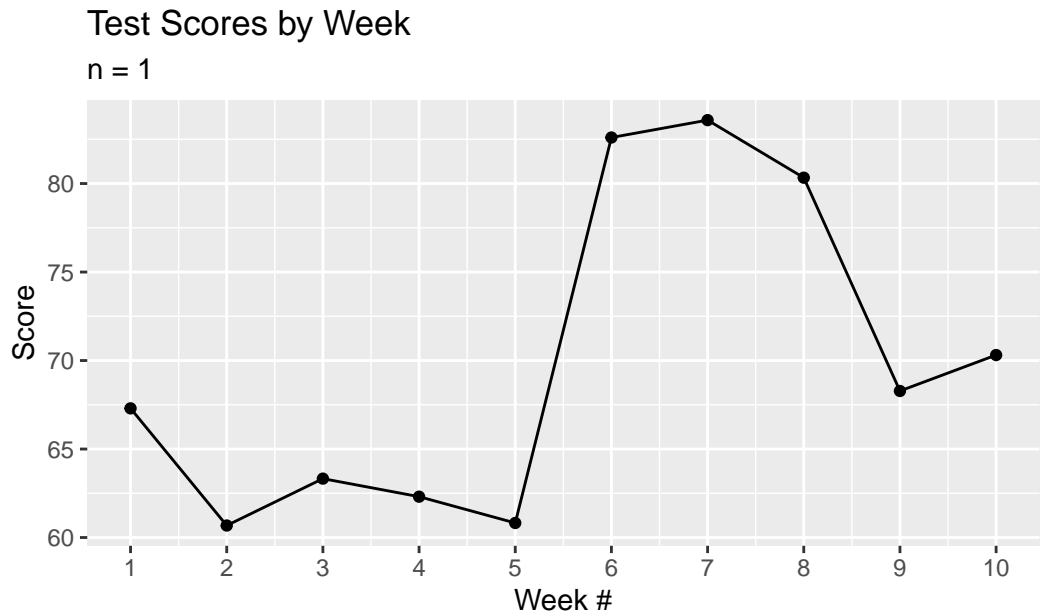
```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_line() +
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",
        subtitle = "n = 1",
        x = "Week #",
        y = "Score",
        caption = "Source: simulated data")
```

Working with Scales

Another common thing you may want to adjust in your graph are the scales. For example, the x-axis doesn't look very good with the half numbers given that we are only working with full weeks. We will use the `scale_x_continuous` function to adjust the x-axis.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1))
```



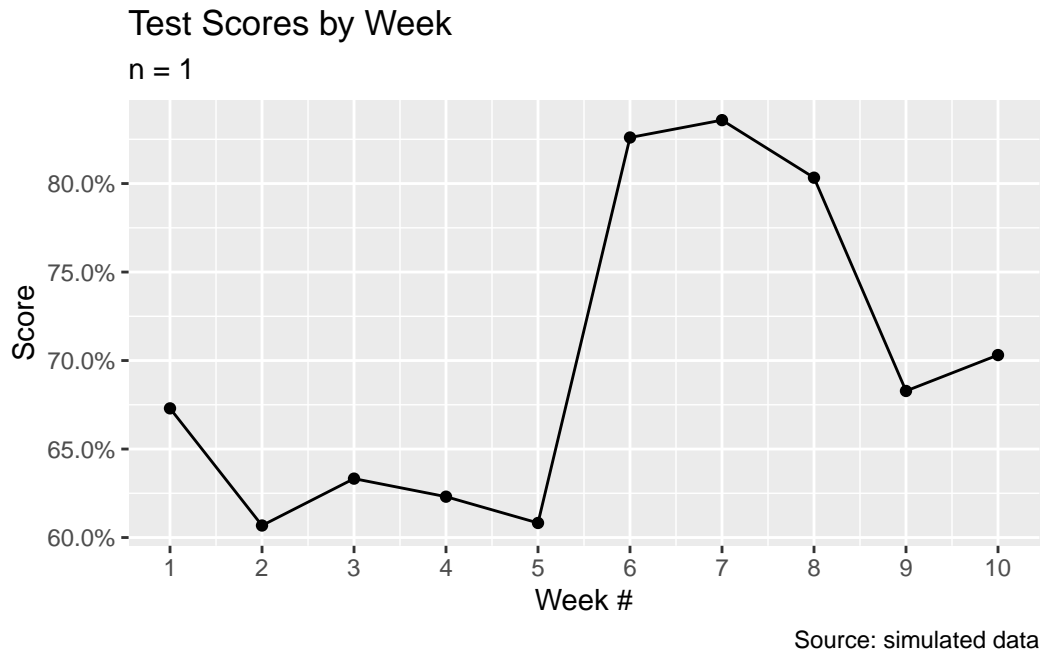
Source: simulated data

You can also adjust the label format. For example, we can make the y-axis into percentages using the `scale_y_continuous` function.

You may need to install the `scales` package.

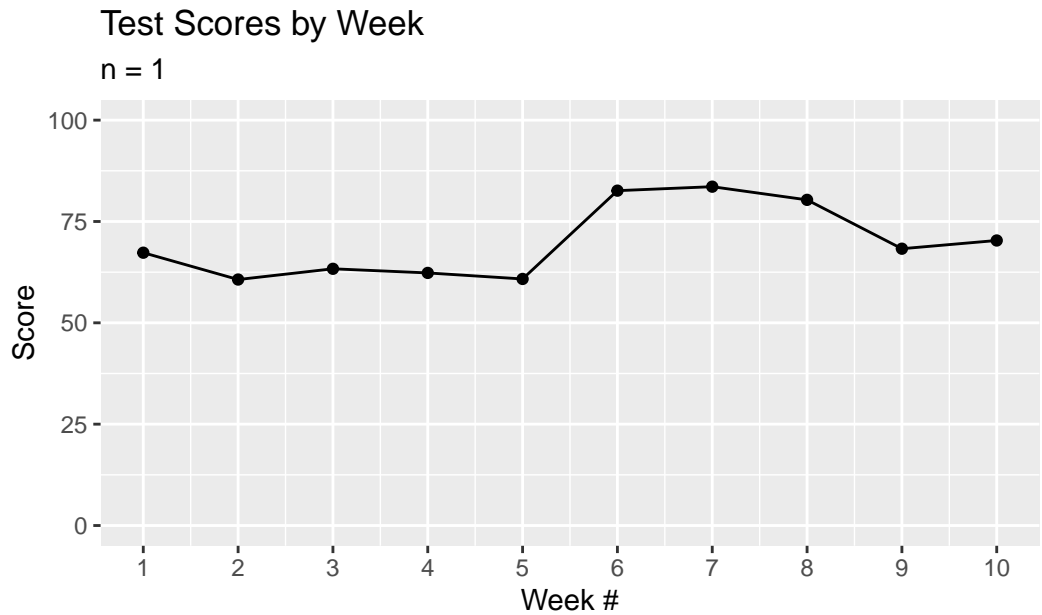
```
install.packages("scales")
```

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading*.01)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +  
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format())
```



You can also adjust the “window” of the graph via its limits. For example, let’s say we wanted the y-axis to go from 0-100.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +  
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(0, 100))
```

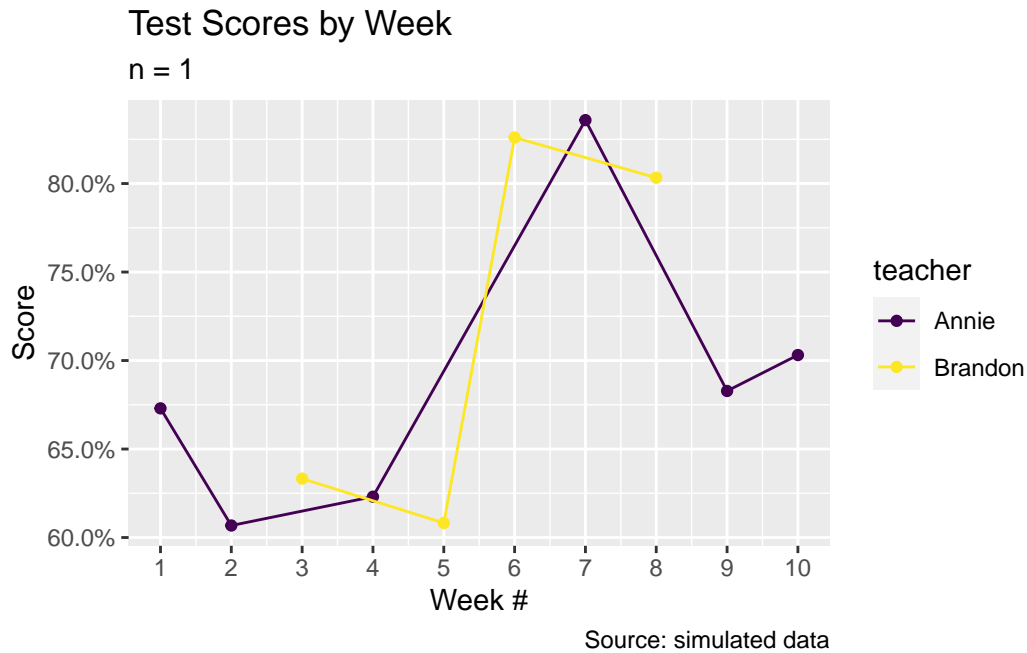


Source: simulated data

Working with Colors

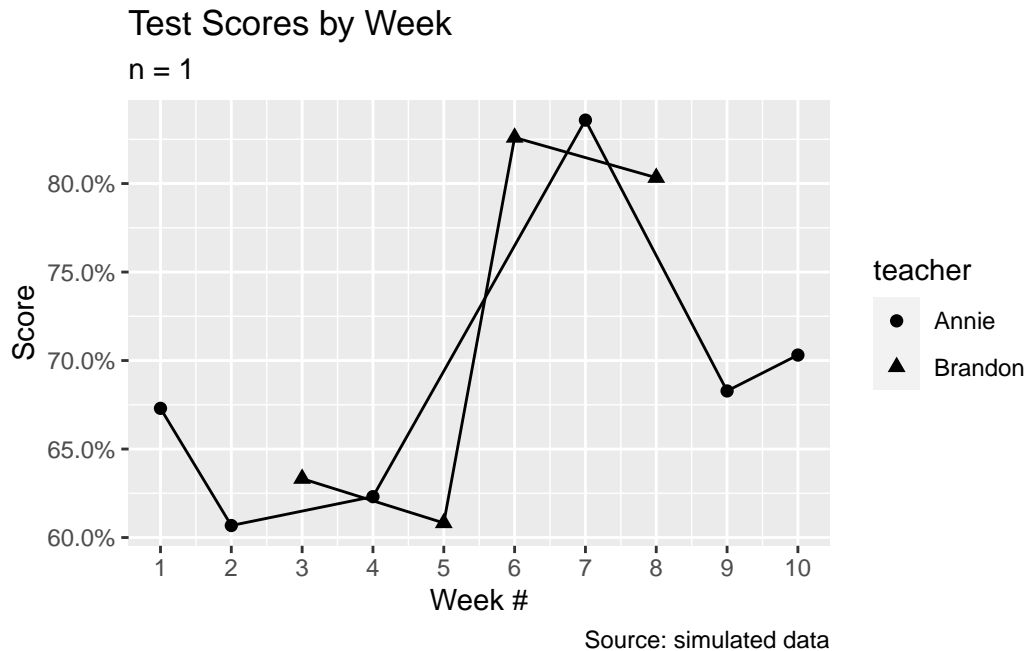
One of our goals in making beautiful ggplots should be to make our graphs as accessible as possible. One important way to make our graphs more accessible is by using color-blind-friendly colors. The default colors in R are not great, so we can use the `viridis` colors that are designed to be color-blind friendly.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading*.01, color = teacher)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +  
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format()) +  
  scale_color_viridis_d()
```



Of course, another option is to use shapes instead of colors when possible.

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading*.01, shape = teacher)) +
  geom_point(size = 2) +
  geom_line() +
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",
        subtitle = "n = 1",
        x = "Week #",
        y = "Score",
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format())
```



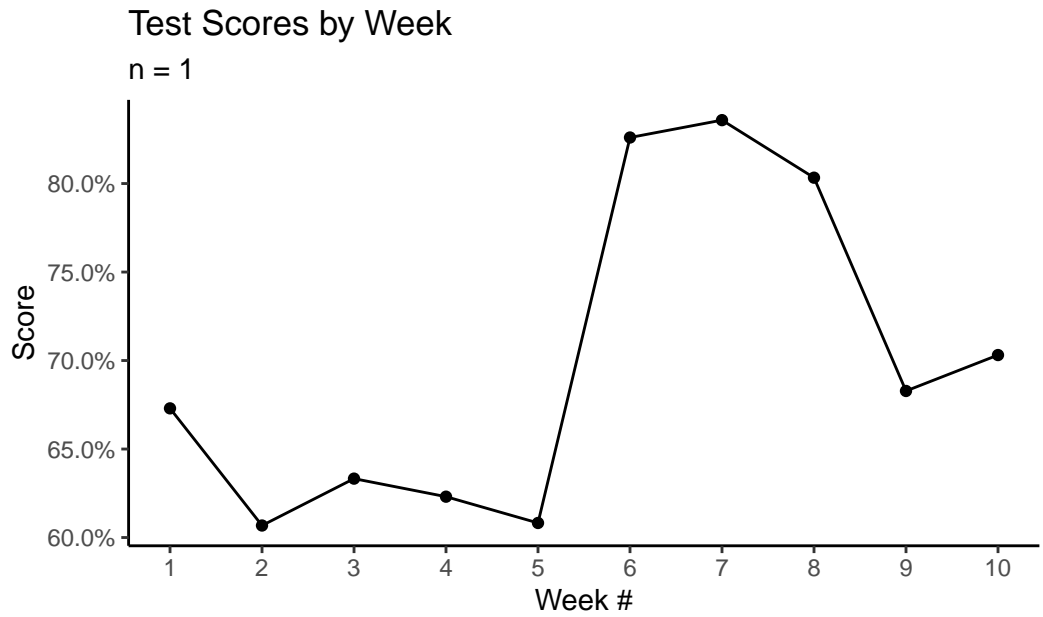
Themes

Finally, we are going to talk about themes. Themes allow you to change the background visuals of your graph. For example, by default, you get a grey background with white grid lines—something I personally really dislike.

Luckily for us, `ggplot` comes with some pre-made themes we can use.

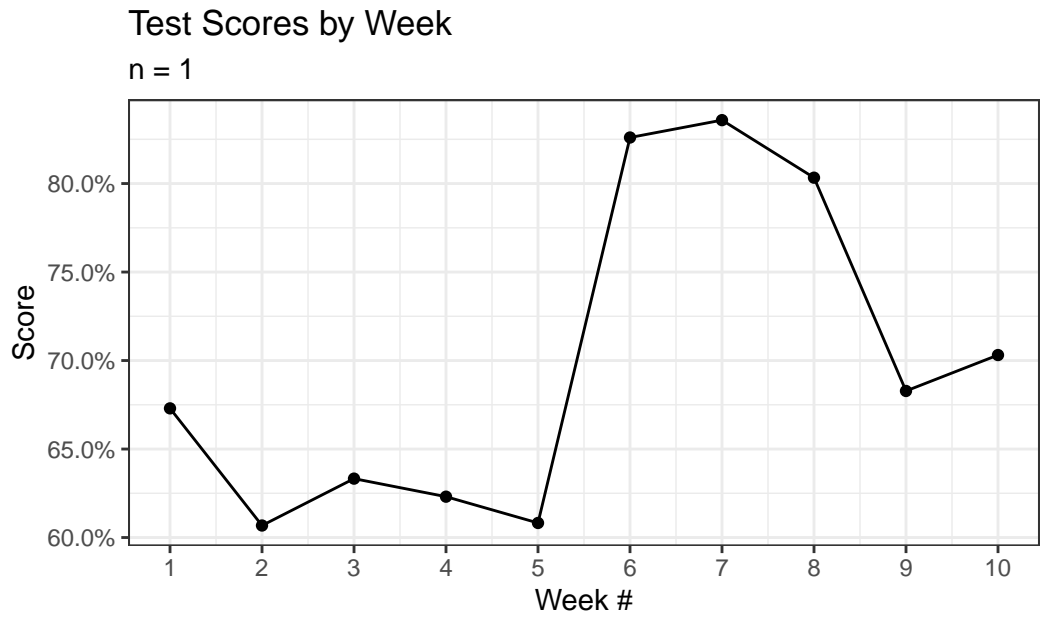
My personal favorite for academic graphs is `theme_classic` but other popular ones include `theme_bw` and `theme_minimal`

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading*.01)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_line() +
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",
        subtitle = "n = 1",
        x = "Week #",
        y = "Score",
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format()) +
  theme_classic()
```



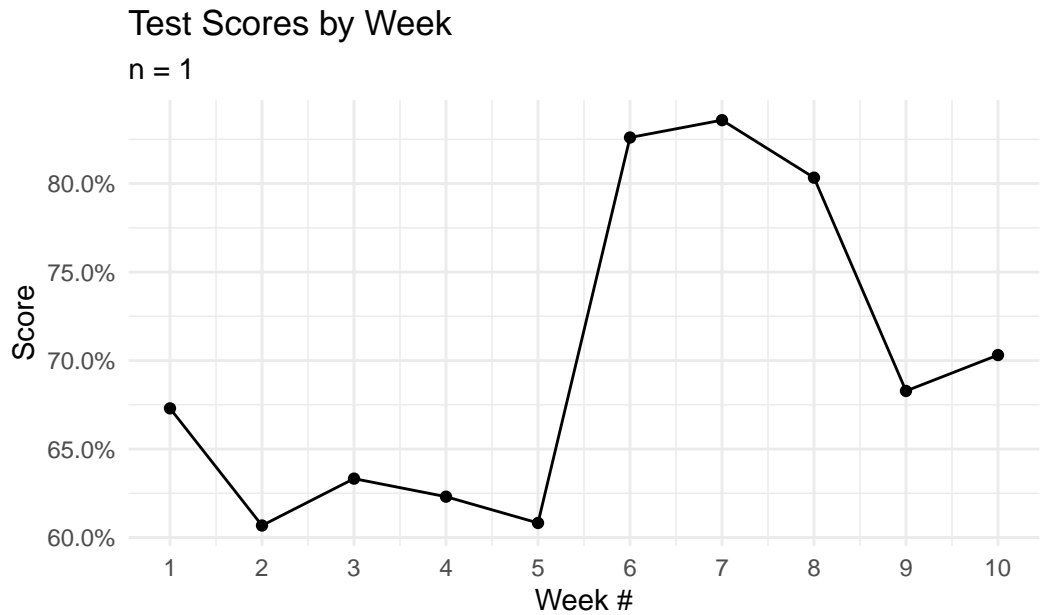
Source: simulated data

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading*.01)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +  
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format()) +  
  theme_bw()
```



Source: simulated data

```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading*.01)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +  
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format()) +  
  theme_minimal()
```

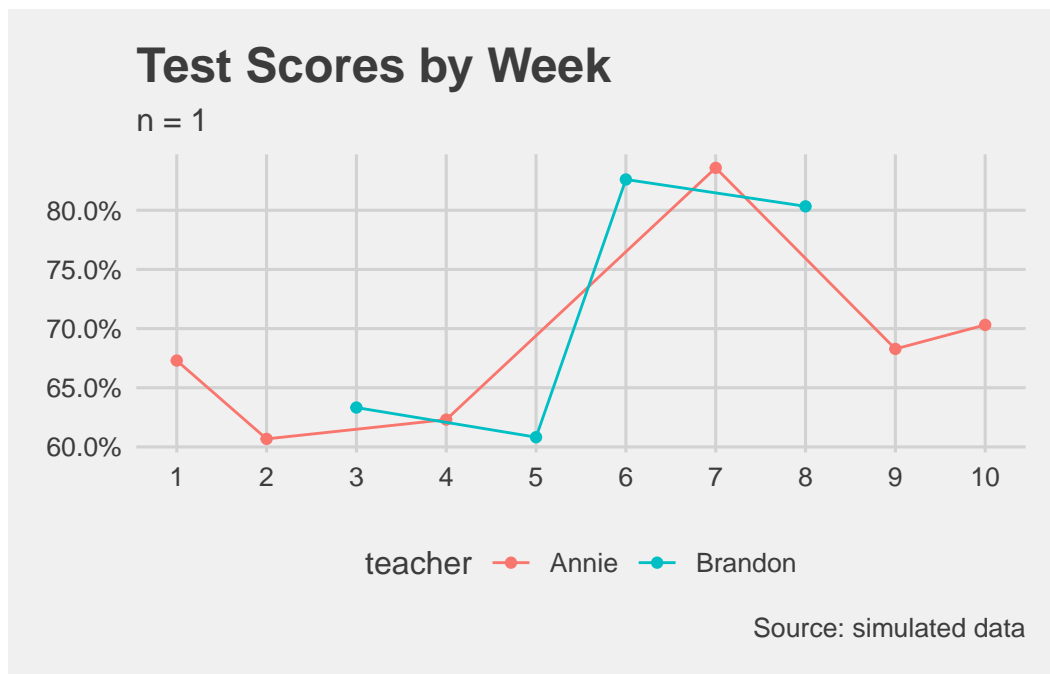



Source: simulated data

There are many other themes that can be found in the `ggthemes` package. For example, you can make your plots look like they were made by FiveThirtyEight.

```
install.packages("ggthemes")
```

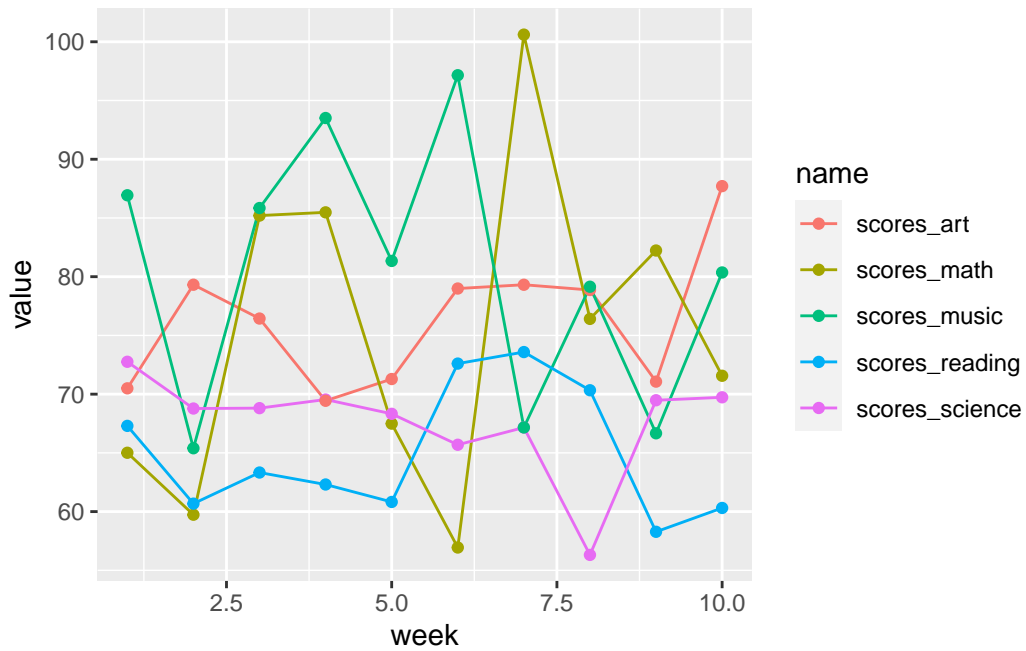
```
ggplot(data = student_data, aes(x = week, y = scores_reading*.01, color = teacher)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = "Test Scores by Week",  
        subtitle = "n = 1",  
        x = "Week #",  
        y = "Score",  
        caption = "Source: simulated data") +  
  scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 10, 1)) +  
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format()) +  
  ggthemes::theme_fivethirtyeight()
```



You can also customize individual components of the theme using the `theme` function. There are many, many options. So, I encourage you to explore those possibilities on their. However, one that I use often is adjusting the legend position.

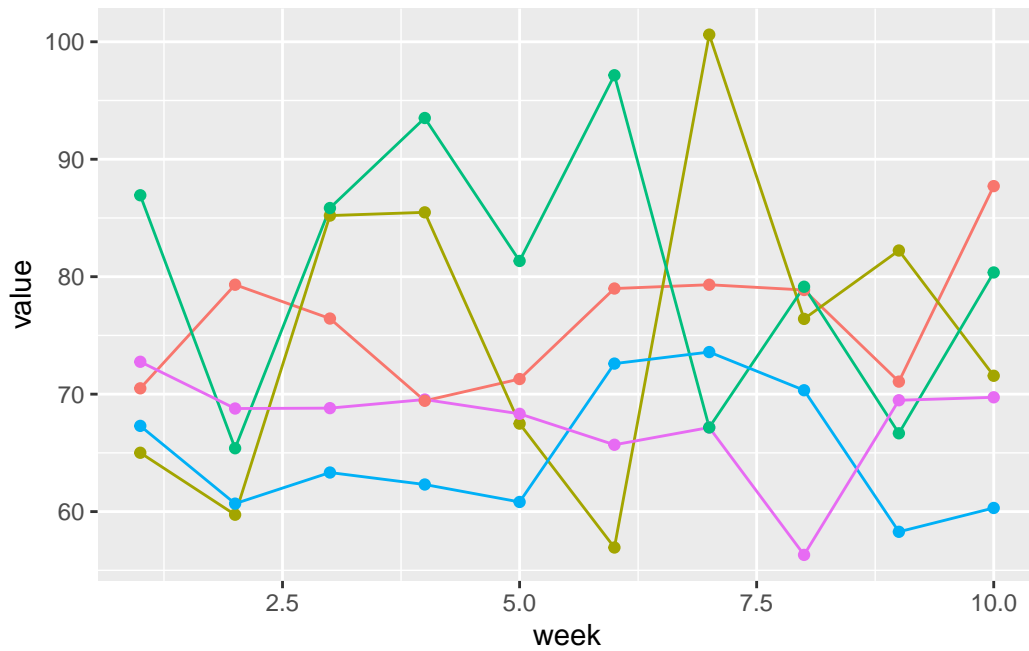
By default, the legend is put to the right of the graph.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, color = name)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point()
```



But you can change its location.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, color = name)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  theme(legend.position = "none")
```



Or you can get rid of it all together.

```
ggplot(data = student_data_long, aes(x = week, y = value, color = name)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point() +  
  facet_wrap(name~.) +  
  theme(legend.position = "none")
```

