Scenario 1 - distribution of student feedback scores in a class survey

I think I would choose a paired column if there are a few questions on the survey. For example, if the students are only asked to rate the quality of lectures and sections on a scale of 1-5, then it would be relatively easy to have 2 columns with 5 subcolumns within them.

However, if there are more than 2 categories, then I would probably choose a box plot, so for each category, we can have it represented via a box plot.

Scenario 2 - earthquake magnitudes

I would choose the circle timeline, where each line would represent a new major earthquake zone, the x-axis could represent the time in years, and the diameter of the circle could represent the magnitude of the earthquake.

Scenario 3 - change in the amount of sugar

I would choose the circle timeline again, where each line could represent a food item (i.e. cereal, bread, etc), the x-axis could represent the time in years, and the diameter of the circle could represent the sugar level