Start-Tech Academy

Bar Charts
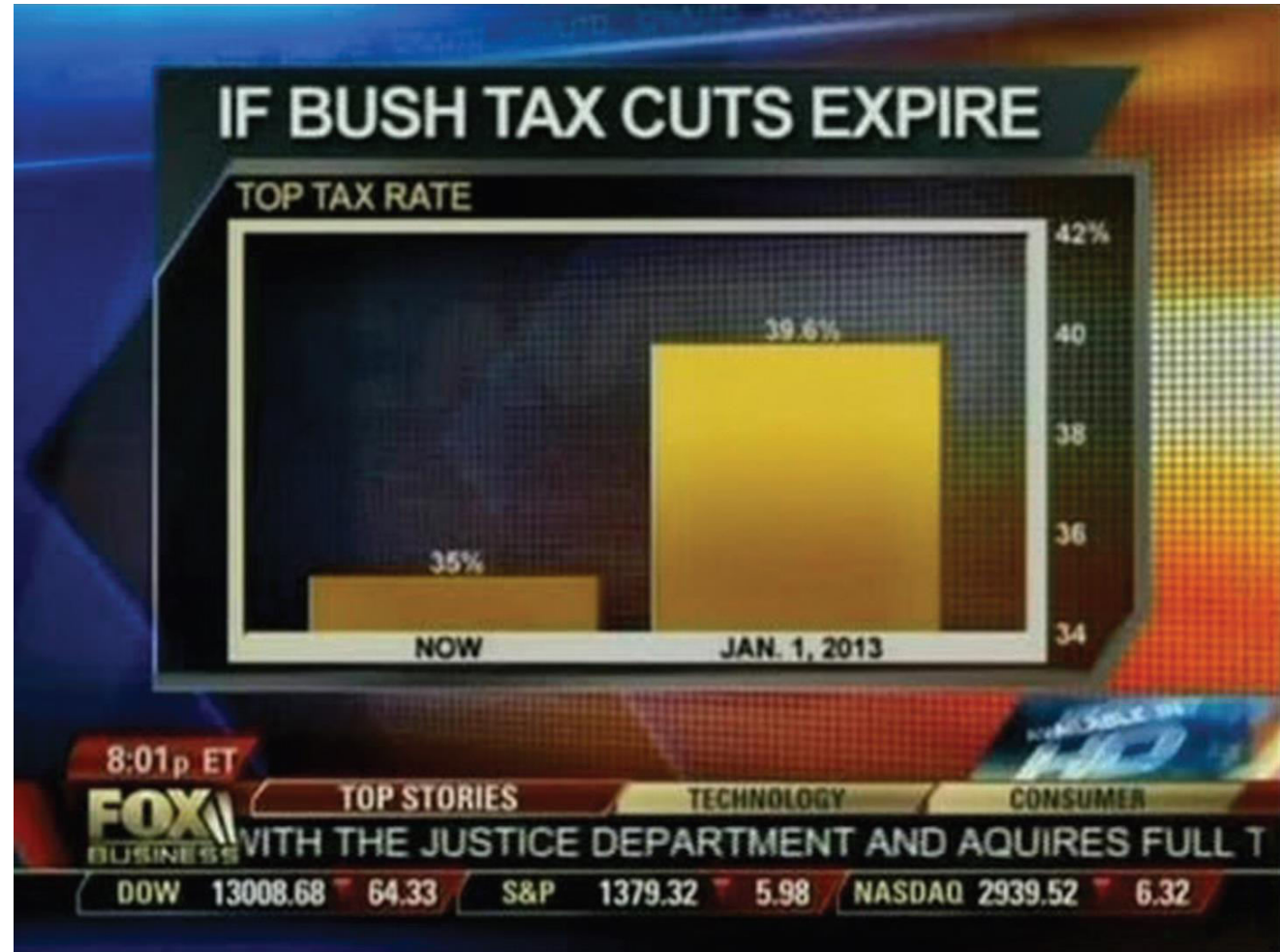
Bar charts

- Bar charts are common
- They are easy to read
- It is easy to see quickly which category is the biggest, which is the smallest, and also the incremental difference between categories.

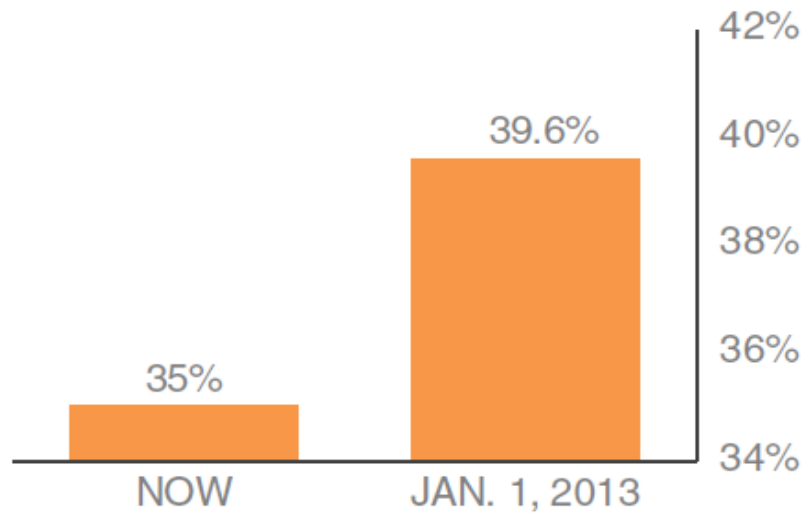Start-Tech ACADEMY

Bar Charts

What's wrong with this chart

Bar Charts

Closer look

Non-zero baseline: as originally graphed
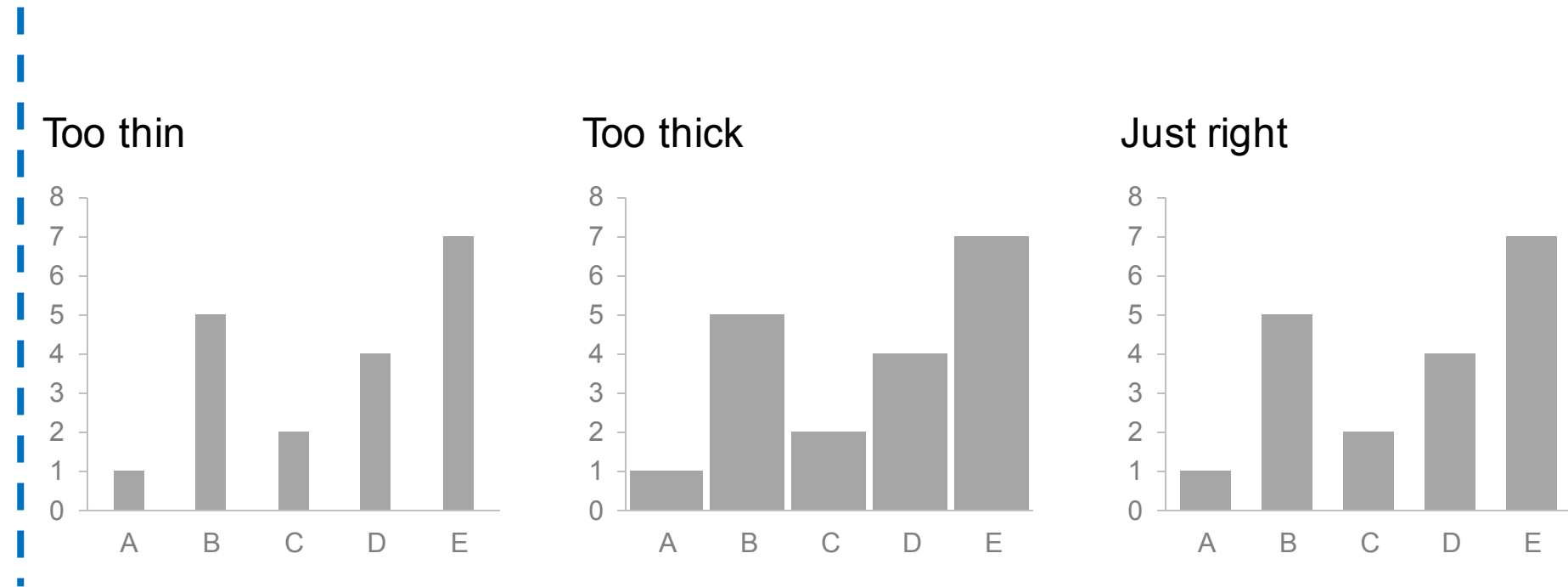
IF BUSH TAX CUTS EXPIRE
TOP TAX RATE

39.6%

35%

NOW   JAN. 1, 2013

42%
40%
38%
36%
34%

Zero baseline: as it should be graphed

IF BUSH TAX CUTS EXPIRE
TOP TAX RATE

39.6%

35%

NOW   JAN. 1, 2013

40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

Start-Tech
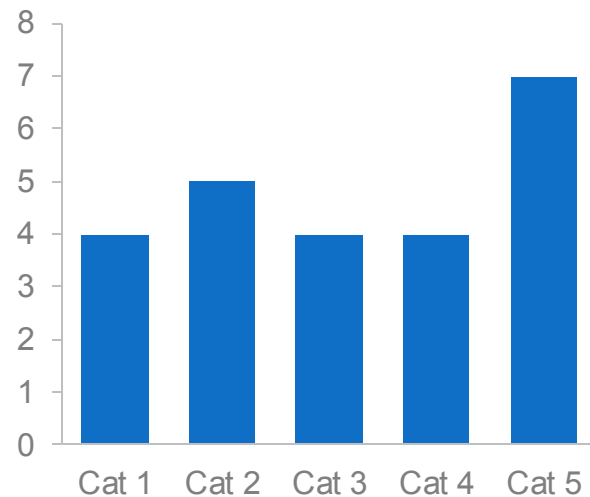ACADEMY

Bar Charts

Bar Width
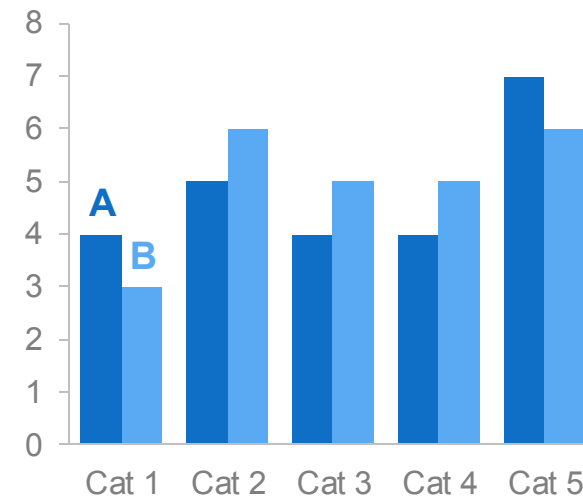

Too thin

Too thick

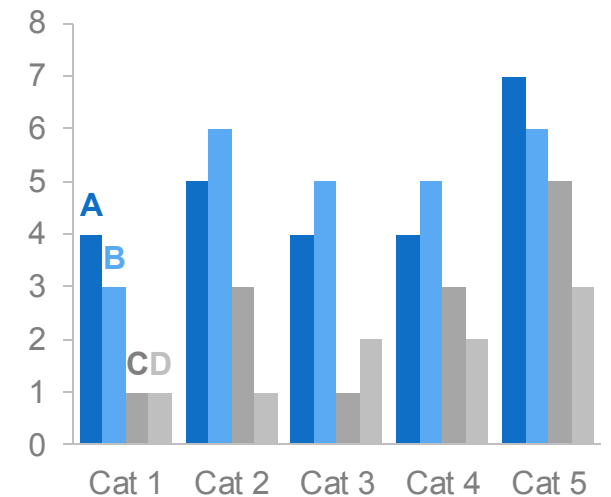Just right
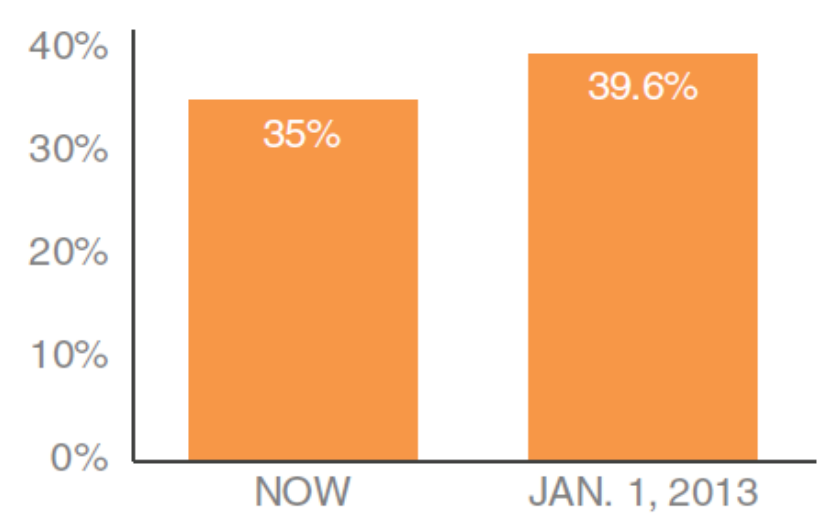
Bar Charts
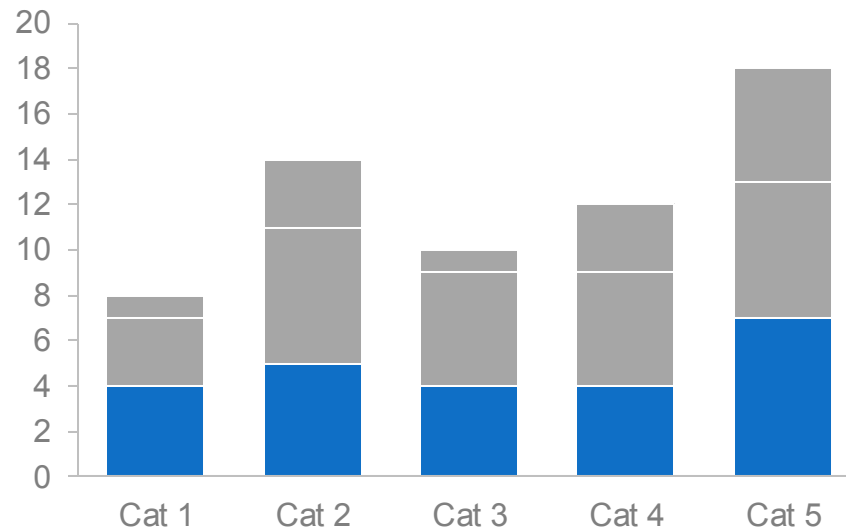
Multiple Series

Single series
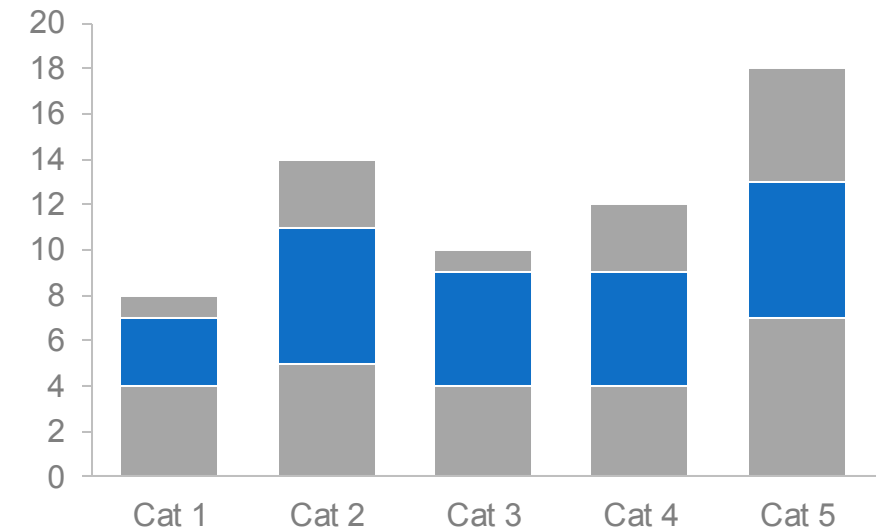
Two series

Multiple series

Bar Charts

Multiple Series

Comparing **these** is easy

Comparing **these** is hard

Bar Charts

Horizontal Bar Charts

Single series

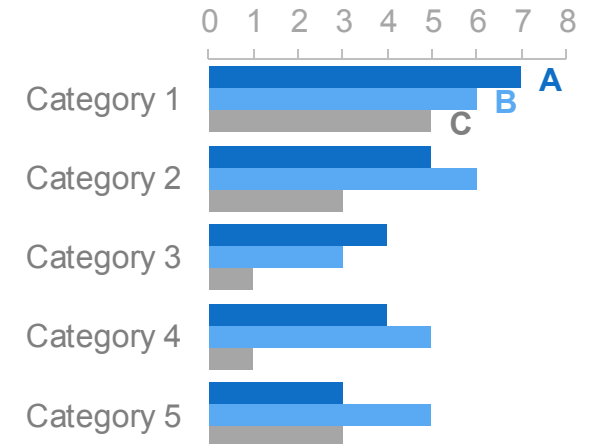| Category	Value
Category 1	7
Category 2	5
Category 3	4
Category 4	4
Category 5	3

Two series

Multiple series

Start-Tech
ACADEMY

Bar Charts

Ordering of Categories

- Prefer natural ordering
- Otherwise, use order which helps in interpretation
- Ex largest to smallest or smallest to largest

Single series

Category	Value
Category 1	7
Category 2	5
Category 3	4
Category 4	4
Category 5	3

Start-Tech ACADEMY