Statement Concerning the Victims of The Ebola Outbreaks

In Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the DRC

Our group project’s methods and results are deeply abstracted and antiseptic things, concerned with numbers, statistics, computer code, and mathematical methods. Underneath this abstraction, however, I think that it’s important to acknowledge what may *seem* obvious, and yet so easily submerges beneath the abstraction of the task at hand – namely that the subject matter is a horrifying tragedy. The original author of this paper no doubt appreciated this fact, and the intent of the paper is to provide a method for maximizing the impact of intervention resources and ultimately to save lives. I don’t want to make a big stink out of this, but it is important for us to remember that all these numbers we’re looking at represent painful deaths. We owe it to the victims and to ourselves to occasionally be reminded of the macabre rather than risk being oblivious to it.