

MIS0855: Data Science

In-Class Exercise on Wed, Jan 28 – Understanding Data Visualization

Objective: Learn how to read and understand messages from data visualization

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify the message a graphic is trying to convey
- Evaluate how successful the graphic is at conveying that message

Step 1: Explore - individual (10 minutes)

- 1) Visit the graphic collections on the New York Times Learning Site. There are several areas with domain-specific collections:

History, Economics, Social Issues	http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/24/teaching-with-infographics-social-studies-history-economics
Science and Health	http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/25/teaching-with-infographics-science-and-health
English, Fine Arts, Entertainment	http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/08/26/teaching-with-infographics-language-arts-fine-arts-and-entertainment

- 2) Choose the area you're most interested in and spend a few minutes browsing the graphics.
- 3) Identify two examples that you think are very cool.

So you don't lose track of your graphics, copy and paste the URL where you found the graphic from your browser into a Word document. You can also use the document to make some notes.

- 4) **Try to understand the following.**
 - a. What are the sources of the data visualized?
 - b. What are the key messages in these graphics?
 - c. What kind of delivery means do the graphics adopt to deliver the messages?

Step 2: Discussion – group (10 minutes)

- 1) In groups of three or four, compare and discuss your notes.
- 2) From your lists, choose two example of nice, cool graphics.
- 3) Write a note with answers to the three questions above. Make sure your note includes the URLs to the graphics you've chosen.

Send your group's note to minspang@temple.edu by 10:00am.