

Good/Bad/Ugly Assignment

Data Visualization Using R
Spring 2025
Leah Brooks

Weekly Assignment

Part of being able to know how to make a good, communicative data graphic is analyzing the graphics you come across. Do they tell a story? Do they tell the story they think they are telling? Why are they clear? or why are they unclear?

To work on this process, I ask students to contribute a graphic once during the semester. At the beginning of class, another student, previously assigned, will critique the graphic.

To do this, sign up on the google sheet linked in the Blackboard announcements under “Good/Bad/Ugly Presentations Link.” You must sign up **once** as a finder, and **once** as a commenter.

If you are a finder, find a graphic related to the previous class. (This is a little vague for the first week, and then very specific thereafter.) Use graphics that you see while reading.

Find these charts through your daily news, culture, or academic reading. Stay away from “good charts” or “bad charts” websites.

Finders must link their graphic to the google sheet by Wednesday at noon. So, if you are a finder for lecture 2, you need to link a graphic by Wednesday at noon. Late links **do not receive credit**. Set yourself a calendar reminder or an auto-email right now after you sign up.

To link in a google doc, in the relevant cell type
`=hyperlink("link text", "[link]")`
where “link text” is the link from your file. Google drive will create a link for any file that you’ve saved.

If you want to draw readers’ attention to one particular chart in an article with many charts, use the purple cells at the right of the sheet, to add a comment telling us which chart to look at.

If you are a commenter, you need to come prepared with **three specific points** about the graphic. These can be criticisms, appreciations, or suggestions. (For inspiration, see [this blogpost](#).) I reiterate **three points** – no more, and no fewer.

Criticisms are best paired with suggestions. At the beginning of class, commenters will tell us their three points.