

Policy Brief and Presentation Final Instructions

Data Visualization Using R
Spring 2025
Leah Brooks

Due Dates

Presentations due to the google folder linked on the announcements page on Blackboard at noon the day of your presentation.

Final papers are due Monday, May 5 by midnight. Turn in to piazza in the “final_policy_brief” folder.

I will check date stamps and sadly take off credit for late assignments.

Plagiarism

Don't do it!

Please remember that it is your responsibility to use your own words, both in the presentation and in the policy brief. If you are confused about what plagiarism is, do not use this assignment as an experiment. See the very helpful University of Wisconsin page (<https://bit.ly/2V3mF42>) about appropriate and inappropriate paraphrasing.

Please be in touch with questions. It is better to ask before than suffer the consequences after!

Presentations

Presentation logistics

- Name your file [your lastname]_presentation
- Each presenter has ten minutes
- I will cut you off with a timer
- By noon the day of your presentation, post your slides to the google folder for presentations linked on the Blackboard announcements page
 - then the April 28 or April 30 sub-folder
 - and the “presentations” sub-folder
- I'll load presentation slides to my computer for the class
- Use any format that you can upload to google drive and that I can download
- Be prepared for questions from the audience and from me

Presentation Substance

- Your key remit is to tell a story with data using data graphics
- Grades are based on how well you do this

- There are multiple paths to a successful presentation
- Make slides
- Remember
 - that slides for a presentation may differ from slides you'd use for a paper presentation
 - that clear graphs use annotations
- Refer to the handout for the fully composed chart
- Use what we've discussed in class (see Knaflie for ideas) to make the structure of the presentation that works best to convey your ideas

Comments Logistics

- If you are not presenting, you are writing comments
- Submit feedback by 9 am the day following the presentation to presentations google folder
 - use the relevant day's subfolder
 - and then the "comments" subfolder
- Name feedback [your lastname]_on_[presenter last name]
- The more constructive the feedback, the more helpful
- I will assign the presentations on which you'll comment

Comments Substance

- Your job is to give feedback to the people with your number and your number plus one on the day you are *not* presenting
- If you are student number 7, comment on student 7 and student 1
- Something in the half-a-page range; quality is preferred to quantity. Don't be too nice!

(next)

Policy Brief

Final Product

Your mandate for this assignment is to

- write a 5 to 10 page brief
- with 5 to 8 graphics (no fewer than 5; more than 8 is ok)
- graphics count in the page limit; they should be embedded into your brief
- make visualizations in R
- use data that require some form of aggregation
 - this could be individual-level data and you write about averages
 - this could be neighborhood-level data and you write about cities
 - this could be city-level data and you write about cities on average
- Use any citation method that allows use to find the data/literature you are citing.
- All graphs should be self-explanatory – look to the “fully composed chart” assignment to see the elements that make up a “complete” chart
- Your grade is determined by how well you use data graphics to tell a compelling story

What to turn in

- turn in your .R script
- your policy brief in pdf form
- Both are due May 5 by midnight to Piazza
 - Use the “final_policy_brief” folder
 - post both docs there
- Name files as
 - [lastname [and other last name, if applicable]]_brief.pdf
 - [lastname [and other last name, if applicable]]_Rscript.R

Examples From Previous Years

There are excellent policy briefs and presentations posted on the course website. Go to the resources tab, then “Previous Years’ Most Successful Policy Briefs.”

One of the previous year’s classes was smaller and therefore had longer presentations. You should not expect to convey as much content as in those presentations.

Presentation Dates

Last Name	First Name	Date	Student Number
Meisler	Hallie	April 28	1
Liang	Raquel	April 28	2
Papera	Maria	April 28	3
Wendzel	Caroline	April 28	4
Daley	Cade	April 28	5
Hetrick	Katelyn	April 28	6
Campbell	Emma	April 28	7
Williams	Natalie	April 30	1
Shirley	Maddie	April 30	2
Ward	Liz	April 30	3
Krantz	Amanda	April 30	4
Short	Caden	April 30	5
Walczyk	Eric	April 30	6
Cruz Fuentes	Sandra	April 30	7