

Student quotes on the Data Visualization Assignment

Section 1

Qualitative Evidence that students gained a Technical Skill Set

Quotes From Student Self-Reflections (shared with the permission of students)

The advice I would give to someone who is doing this assignment in the future is not to get too overly ambitious with the data you want to map. Make it simple. Too much data can overwhelm you which can lead to mistakes. Otherwise, understand that this assignment will not only help you with this course but you will achieve some life long skills.

After completing the assignment I feel I have gained a new set of skills that are useful within and outside an academic setting.

Up to this point I have been focusing on scholarly and news articles, but now I can see the importance of data sets to help support a thesis or research question. Being able to read a data set and connect it to a research question is a very valuable skill for research in any topic. I can now understand data sets more easily and comprehensibly.

The most technical part of the project for me was finding a good way to represent my data, since I had to alter the graph form from the example, and putting labels on the data once I had made the graph to my liking.

I found the knightlab timeline tool to be a little frustrating at first. Then I figured out that I need to erase the “era” figure, which necessitated that I have an end date to work. So knowing this, it’s actually an easy tool to use.

Section 2

Qualitative Evidence of Active Learning to Support Research

Quotes From the Student Self-Reflections (shared with student permission)

There are a number of reasons I chose to research more about the immigration of Vietnam. First of all, I want to learn more about the pattern of migration of overseas Vietnamese after the Vietnam War. When I was younger, I didn't really understand why my uncles left Vietnam to come to the United States and Japan. I was never taught in school about the existence of South Vietnam (its history and government) and only educated on how the unification of the country was a good thing. I also didn't know about the large presence of Vietnamese people in the US (with the major influx coming after the Vietnam War to escape the communist regime) until I came here. By choosing this subject for my final slideshow, I hope not to just discover more about the real history during the Vietnam War era, but also to acquire a better knowledge of my community (Vietnamese American).

I think having done this assignment prior to writing a majority of my paper has actually given me more clarity in terms of the direction I want my paper to go in.

Now that I have formatted this timeline in a professional and well-researched manner, I feel as if I have a better direction on how to write this paper. This project was a challenge, but my final paper and overall comprehension of the global drug trade will benefit.

I learned how to look up data and create a visual element to support it in many other classes. These experiences taught me what the best strategies are when I am approaching a project such as this one. While some of my sources already discussed data relating to my topic, this project helped me focus on certain areas that I didn't pick up from the sources.

I think that this assignment did help me research for the final paper because I had to look up some statistics and data that I could use in the report.

I think I may do additional data research and may use more visualization graphs in my paper as sources. I like the visual representation that graphs create because I feel like they allow concepts to stick with people better than just numbers on a graph.

I am not a tech person but I am a visual person so I appreciate the assignment in this regard as I both learn(ed) a technical skill but also how to present information in a visual way. I've always wondered who made these graphs and how for articles online as they seem a popular and powerful tool.

This assignment was difficult for me. I'm not good with technology and I am behind in the class so I'm not sure what my final research project will be. I do feel like this assignment helped me figure out more about my final research paper