

## Policy Brief Proposal

Data Visualization Using R  
Spring 2026  
Leah Brooks

Due Lecture 3: Monday February 2 by 3:30 pm

To make sure that your project is on track, submit a one page proposal in which you outline what you are planning to do for this policy brief.

The mandate for this assignment is to

- write a 5 to 10 page brief, pictures included
- include 8 to 10 graphics, all your own work
- 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 at least two data sources

In your one-page proposal write

- what you are planning to write about
- a paragraph clearly stating the two data sources you're planning to use. For example
  - map of DC and data on birth weight by neighborhood
  - country-level GDP from IMF and measures of corruption from World Bank
- a paragraph describing what kind of aggregation you're planning on
  - this is using the "group\_by" command
  - what is the original level of your data, and to which level are you aggregating?
- a general outline of the things you'd like to say and how you'll show them with data

Be sure to identify the data and convince me that they include the information you'd like to analyze. I am happy to discuss and help you find potential data sources both before and after the assignment is due or after the end of lecture. Please be in touch in office hours or send email to Piazza (group emails are preferred so everyone can get feedback).

See examples for length and type of policy briefs at the [Center for Washington Area Studies](#) (these are generally slightly longer than what's required). Please feel free to look around the web for other similar examples.

I have posted very successful examples from past years on the course webpage under the "Resources" tab.

Turn in the one page proposal **in pdf form** via this [google link](#). Make sure you are logged in to your GW google account before submission.

Name your document last\_name\_policy\_brief\_proposal.pdf; mine would be brooks\_policy\_brief\_proposal.pdf