

**In-Class Workshop for Policy Briefs**  
March 2, 2026; updated March 16, 2026

Data Visualization Using R  
Spring 2026

This workshop has multiple goals

1. To prod you into doing some of your work early enough that you'll have time to reflect on what you've done and make helpful changes.
2. In the processing of explaining your work to your classmates, realize things that are unclear or confusing.
3. Get useful feedback from your classmates.
4. Develop your skills in both in critiquing graphics, and in improving them by giving helpful suggestions to your classmates.

With these goals in mind, your charge for class April 6 is to

- post **24 hours in advance** (so by April 5, 3 pm)
- rough drafts of 4 graphs (recalling that the final brief should have 8 to 10+ charts)
- a storyline for your policy brief
- the more of your brief you have to share, the better!
- post to your content to the google folder to which I have linked in the pinned email in Piazza
  - post your graphics and and text into your assigned group (see below) in the "drafts" subfolder
  - perhaps make a subfolder for each group member

I've assigned you into groups of 3 students. See the assigned list on the pinned Piazza post. In class, you'll walk the other students through the brief and solicit feedback. If you are in a group, it was my intention to split you up. Let me know ASAP by email if this list does not reflect this.

After class, you have two (short) assignments:

1. Write comments for each of the classmates/groups to which you are assigned
  - These are due **Thursday April 9 at 5 pm**
  - Post to your group's google folder, subfolder "comments"
  - Use the naming convention  
[policy brief author name]\_comments\_from\_[comments author name].docx/pdf
2. Write a short memo summarizing how you will modify your brief based on this workshop
  - This is due **Monday April 13** by the start of class
  - Each group should write one memo
  - Post to your group's google subfolder, subfolder "response to comments"
  - Use the naming convention [policy brief author]\_comments\_summary

No late work accepted.

Feedback for improvements for next year is greatly appreciated. Feel free to send an email or speak to me personally.