

Policy Brief and Presentation Final Instructions

Data Visualization Using R
Spring 2026
Leah Brooks

Due Dates

April 27 presentations are due to this [google form](#) by 1:30 on April 27. April 29 presentations are due to this [google form](#) by 1:30 on April 29. The forms allow you to upload either a presentation document or to send a link.

Final papers are due Monday, May 4 by midnight. Turn in via this [google form](#).

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.

You are also responsible for the content you submit. If you submit content that I suspect you do not understand, I expect you to be available for a brief oral conversation about that content before I submit a final grade for the assignment.

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 eight minutes
- You will set a 8 minute noisy timer on your phone to stop.
- By 1:30 the day of your presentation, upload your slides or link to your slides via the google form linked at the top
- I'll load presentation slides to the class computer
- 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 Knafllic for ideas) to make the structure of the presentation that works best to convey your ideas
- You do not need to present all the 8 to 10 graphics your final policy brief in this presentation

Comments Logistics

- If you are not presenting, you are writing comments
- Submit feedback by 9 am the day following the presentation to [policy_brief_presentations_comments](#) google folder
 - use the relevant day's 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 8 to 10 graphics (no fewer than 8; more than 10 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

- One pdf that includes
 - your policy brief in pdf form
 - your .R script
- Both are due May 4 by midnight via form linked at top
- Name file as
 - [lastname [and other last name, if applicable]]_brief.pdf

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

Student Name(s)	Date	Student Number
George	April 27	1
Elizabeth	April 27	2
DelRoy	April 27	3
Philip/Thomas	April 27	4
Kibin	April 27	5
Eva	April 27	6
Manavi/Otsile	April 29	1
Tosha	April 29	2
Samantha	April 29	3
Chase	April 29	4
Elly/Sawyer	April 29	5
Halle	April 29	6