M2.2 Exercise: Storyboarding to Connect Visuals to an Argument

Instructor Note: This exercise creates an outline for students that they can use as they create their visual report drafts. Students should have picked their scenarios and analyzed the data associated with the scenarios prior to completing this exercise. Student should know which data they're going to visualize and have a plan for creating the visuals.

The visual outline the students create can serve as a pre-draft to lay out their argument based on the work they completed in the previous exercise when they were working with their data. To get some feedback on their outlines, put students in small groups and have them review each other's work. For online classes, consider a small group discussion.

Exercise

This exercise allows you to connect your data visualization to a specific point/purpose for a specific audience. You will create a visual outline of your report which can help you as you draft. The visual outline you create helps you lay out your main argument and connect that argument to your visuals. This visual outline can serve as an early draft that you can use as you create the draft of your report. You also will get feedback on your draft from your peers.

Instructions

To complete this exercise, you should have picked your scenario and analyzed the data associated with your scenario. You should know which data from your dataset you're going to analyze and have a plan for drafting your visuals. This plan was developed in Exercise 2.1 Working With and Analyzing Data. You will now create a "storyboard" to visually plan how you will integrate visuals into the argument of the deliverable to create a "story" or argument.

Step 1

- Describe each visual you are planning
- Describe your argument or point
- Outline your argument or point (For more information on outlining see RAWWr Ch. 10
 Organizing Information). List the main point of your argument, then list three supporting
 points that prove your main point. You can use headings to help organize your thoughts

Step 2

- Put the visuals in the order based on which visual supports each of your main points
- Integrate the visuals into your outline to create a storyboard that connects planned visuals to the "story" or point you are making

Your completed storyboard should clearly describe the point you are making, and where and how each visual fits in.

Then post your storyboard to the discussion board and comment on your peers' drafts using the following questions:

- Do you understand the main argument of the storyboard? Why or why not?
- Do the visuals effectively support the points listed in the storyboard? Why or why not?

After you have received comments, consider your outline. Edit the outline to ensure the argument is clear and the visuals are supporting your point. You can then use your outline to help you create a draft.