

Data Scenarios

Determine the most appropriate visuals to illustrate the following data. Discuss why some are better than others for the particular contexts. For one scenario, try to create the visual itself (using Word, Excel, or even a web application).*

1. Campus-Wide Smoking Ban

In order to find out more about the smoking ban on campus, Group X decided to document student opinion. In an online survey of 138 WVU students, 35 freshmen responded, 23 sophomores responded, 49 juniors responded, 28 seniors responded, and the remaining 3 were graduate students. 56 reported that they were “habitual smokers,” 31 reported that they were “occasional smokers,” and 71 reported that they were “non-smokers.” In terms of consensus on a campus-wide smoking ban, 43 claimed they were “for” the ban, 68 claimed they were “against” the ban, and 27 claimed they were “unsure.”

2. WVU Writing Center

The WVU Writing Center has decided to launch a new marketing campaign. To determine how students first learn about the Writing Center, Group Y decided to poll students. Out of 160 responses, 26% said their instructors or advisors, 16% said social media (6% Twitter, 2% Blogger, 8% Facebook), 30% said a friend, 18% said a flyer, 2% said by walking past it, and 8% said by new-student orientation.

3. PRT Issues

To try to illuminate the need for revamped public transit, Group Z decides to research the PRT’s breakdowns (with wait times of 20 minutes or longer) from the past 10 years. Reports found that in 2000, the PRT reportedly broke down 147 times; in 2001, 170; in 2002, 199; in 2003, 182; in 2004, 217; in 2005, 262; in 2006, 277; in 2007, 265; in 2008, 211; in 2009, 278, and in 2010, 309. According to Admissions records, the incoming classes for those years were 3,900 in 2000; 3,800 in 2001; 3,950 in 2002; 4,200 in 2003; 4,220 in 2004; 4,300 in 2005; 4,200 in 2006; 4,400 in 2007, 4,900 in 2008; 5,100 in 2009; and 5,200 in 2010.

*To create a chart, try using Microsoft Word, Excel, or a web application. These can all be starting resources:

- <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/excel-help/CH001000373.aspx>
- <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word-help/CH010178301.aspx>
- http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+create+a+chart&aq=f
- <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/>