Picking The Right Graphic For Your Data

In a world where data is king, how can you be sure you're getting your point across? This poster may help you decide which graphs to include in your presentations, allowing you to effectively communicate your data-driven insights. First, determine what kind of variables you want to compare (from the key in the bottom right), then read and select from the different variable categories below.

1 Quantitative Variable

Density Plot



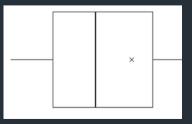
- Shows continuous density
- visual representation of distribution

Histogram



- Shows densities broken into groups
- Good for partitioning data

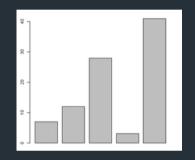
Box Plot



- Breaks data into quartiles
- Shows how data is distributed about the mean

1 Categorical 1 Quantitative

Bar Chart



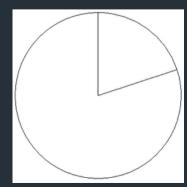
- Emphasizes comparison
- Easy to read, very familiar

Frequency Table

Score	Frequency
6	2
7	3
8	7
9	7
10	1

- Shows specific values
- Detail for well informed audiences

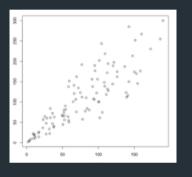
Pie Chart



- Shows proportions of a whole
- Good for small numbers of variables

2 Quantitative Variables

Scatter Plot



- Shows effects between two variables
- Easily see outliers and fit lines of best fit

Line Graph



- For use with time correlated data
- Easily see relationships over time

Variable Key:

Quantitative:

- Variables measured numerically.

Example: Height (in inches)

Categorical:

Variables measured by category
Example: Color (red, green, blue)