

DATA VIZ CHALLENGE (DV3E)

Module

Data Visualization

Format

Exercise

Purpose

This exercise contributes to the module learning objectives by asking participants to apply their knowledge of data visualization by working in small groups to create a data visualization using data provided to them in a limited time period.

Time Required

- 1 hr.

Activity Description

In this exercise, participants will work in small groups to create a data visualization in a challenge to select the winner.

In advance, the facilitator should form the teams for this exercise, creating groups of two-four people, and seeking a balance of gender, your perception of their comfort level with data visualization, and talkativeness. You will also need to assemble a panel of judges who will review the data visualizations and award a winner, as well as decide on what the winning “prize” will be. The prize might be a printed certificate for each member of the group, a small give-away from your organization, some chocolate bars, or simply the pride of being selected as the “winner.”

To begin the exercise, read through the assignment together in a large group, ensuring that all participants understand the terms of the exercise. The instructions include data for three indicators from Tanzania from six DHS surveys. You may choose different data for this exercise if you wish. The instructions specify that the teams cannot use ALL the data that is given to them—they must make a choice to use some selection of the data. This increases the likelihood that groups will choose different angles and stories to tell from the data. They must use at least one data point, and less than 18 data points.

Next, break into the small groups, and give everyone 30 minutes to work on the activity. Check in with each group to ensure they are making progress, but try not to interfere with their work or give any team an undue advantage.

After 30 minutes, call the group back together. In no particular order, call on groups one at a time to come forward and present their data visualization. Time each group to

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ensure they all receive equal time to present (three minutes). After each group has presented, allow the judges to debate and select the winner.

The judges should use the Data Visualization Checklist as a guide for evaluating each entry (you will likely want to give each judge an appropriate number of the checklists so that he/she can take notes as the entries are presented). Give the judges 5-10 minutes to debate and select a winner. If the judges are unable to reach consensus on the winner, the lead facilitator for this session can use his/her judgement to declare the winner or award a tie.

This should be a fun, lively, yet challenging exercise. Teams may struggle to complete their visualization in 30 minutes, but encourage them to do their best. This timeframe helps to keep the exercise challenging yet concise.

Key Learning Concept(s)

- How to apply data viz design principles for color, text, images, content, and message by constructing a data visualization.
- Selecting appropriate and relevant data to tell a story.

Materials Needed

- [Data Visualization Checklist](#)

Associated Presentations

- Visualizing Data I & II (DV1L and DV2L)

Required Preparation

- None



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