**Picking the Right Chart**

Picking the “right” chart is a terrible way to title this exercise. Let’s rephrase that. How about “Picking one of the many great ways to visually display your information and communicate what you’re trying to communicate, given the data you have available.” Yeah, that’s better.

The following series of data scenarios are realistic and will force you to think about different ways of visualizing different kinds of data. For each one, try to fill up your page with as many quick sketches of ways to communicate the data message as you can. The goal here is quantity NOT quality.

For each of these I am NOT providing the KWYRWTS. You should figure out your KWYRWTS within 60 seconds. I’m providing all the data BUT feel free to ignore data. For instance, if I provide data over time, that does not mean you have to show data over time. You could show just the final year, if that says enough of what you want to say.

Once I call time, then quickly go through and circle the one you feel does the best job.

*SAT Score Performance Across a School District*

In your school district, there are eight high schools. For the past 20 years, two of those schools have dramatically improved their students’ average SAT scores, one has gotten dramatically worse, and the rest have remained about the same. Among the static schools, one has always been a terrible performer and the another has been consistently great.

*SAT Score Performance Across Two Schools*

Two high schools’ average SAT scores have gone up and down over the past 20 years. But the previously worse performer has recently surpassed the other. This coincides with a decrease in the student/teacher ratio from 30:1 to 25:1. The other school was always at 25:1.

*School District Evaluation*

A school district with 25 schools is trying to figure out which schools to expand and emulate and which to close. They are measured across four primary criteria: the physical building conditions, the operational excellence, community support and educational performance. Provide an overview that administrators can use to evaluate the different schools.