Data Is Beautiful 🏖️📊🏞️

Our fourth week, "Data Is Beautiful" is all about turning your experiment into an artistic masterpiece.

When you hear the word "data" you probably think of something very cold and impersonal. Data is another word for "information" but the way that you probably have seen data is in graphs or pie charts. For most people, that kind of information doesn't necessarily seem very beautiful.

This week, we're going to learn about how to make data very personal, unique, and full of context. To do that, I want to introduce you to two information designers, Giorgia Lupi and Stefanie Posavec, who worked together on a year-long data project where they kept track of little details in their lives and every week turned them into art postcards.

Watch

https://hthgse.online/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Whats-the-Point-52-weeks-of-data.mp4

Recommended Reading

Sketching with Data Opens the Mind's Eye

Materials

Colored pencils, markers, crayons, or highlighters
Paper or large note cards cut into 5"x7" rectangles
Pencil
Your happiness data from week 3

Activities

Create your data representation. Begin to draw, sketch, and color your happiness data to make sense of it.

- **Look for patterns, identify common trends, and search for anomalies or details that break the pattern.**
- **What can you count?** Use tally marks to understand how many and how much. Each of these is a very important part of your data! When you're counting, try playing around with colors to help you see patterns and anomalies in your data.
- **Find your story.** After you have played with your data, you can start to think about the story behind it. Maybe you want to tell it chronologically, or with categories, or by the

importance of the different trends. Choose the one that feels most natural for you and then keep sketching.

Create your legend. Here is where you include what someone needs to know in order to understand your data visualization. For example, what do different colors represent?

Assignments

Email a project update to me and your group by Tuesday night with a brief reflection and some evidence of your work so far. Answer these four questions:
1) What have you accomplished so far?
2) What tip do you have for others based on what's going right?
3) What is challenging you?
4) What question do you have for others based on what's going wrong?

Provide feedback to your group members based on their reflections.

Finalize your data representation and send a picture of it to me and your group.

Resources

This week we have included some additional resources that might help or inspire you with representing your data.

[Practice some basic categorization with color and shape](): This is a Google Drawing template created by multimedia teacher Mitzi Moore that guides you through some steps to think about how to turn ideas into graphic representations.
[Learn more about the Dear Data Project](): This website has lots of inspiration for how to visualize your data with sketches.
[Data Humanism](): Giorgia Lupi introduces a new way to think about data with personalization, context, and art.

Next Steps

- Questions or concerns? Contact me or one of your group members!
- Be sure to submit your assignments using the Google Form by Thursday!