

EXAM PROJECT BRIEF

In data visualization design 2023

The exam project asks you to create an interactive data visualization of a data set that you have collected and that has to do with your own lives. Based on this, you write a report that describes your process and your result.

The project brief is a working document that helps you plan ahead as a group. It is thus also drafted and submitted as a group. I expect most briefs to be comprised of 1-2 normal pages (2400-4800 characters including whitespace). If you include figures or tables, that might add to the length. Please be aware that you should also click the submit button once you are ready to share your draft.

THE DATA

For this iteration of the course, I (Søren) decided that I would ask you to work with data that you collect that has to do with yourself. This is quite different from last year's iteration of the course and I would like to explain why I think this is a good choice: First of all, I expect you to be world-leading experts on your own lives (keeping with the course terminology, you are domain experts on yourself). Thus, there is little to no learning curve, and following, uncertainty, when you are asked to work on your own data. Second, I think that we all find it interesting to think about our own lives and gaining insight about this from data might be a motivating factor for many, if somewhat navel-gazing:).

CHOOSING WHICH DATA TO COLLECT

As I said in the lecture, there are several aspects to consider when choosing the data to collect.

To me, the most important seems to be the level of personal information collected and how you might feel about sharing it. On the one hand, you could collect something quite non-sensitive, such as the number of steps you have walked over a week. While this is likely not sensitive information to you, it is likely also not that interesting. On the other hand, you could collect something super-sensitive, such as your emotional state over a week. While this is likely super interesting to explore, it is likely also super sensitive.

The lecture on Friday Feb 24 might give you more inspiration for what and how to choose.

Another aspect to consider is the temporal resolution and extent. Will you collect the number of yawns per minute or per week, how many weeks of yawning will you collect, etc? Having discussed time, location is another interesting aspect. Staying with yawning, where are you yawning? Hopefully, this project won't show a peak period on Friday's past lunchtime in Auditorium 0 - if so, please let me know in an easier way than in your exam project:)

Since the exam project is a group project, you will share this data with other group members in addition to internal and external examiners. Thus, it is important to consider the how you would feel about sharing your data with these

people and of course, to decide on collecting data that you all find interesting and doable.

My advice is that you identify a data focus that speaks to the entire group and that the entire group feels happy and confident about. I have seen previous group-based data visualization projects where one member have had more interest and knowledge in the data, and they often tend to run into collaboration issues. While this is less likely for data about yourself, it is not impossible to imagine this happening. For example, if a group were to collect and visualize data about their concert experiences and one member had been to ten times as many concerts as any other member, then this might be red flag.

DESCRIBING THE PROJECT IDEA

To set your project work up for success, this submission asks you to describe your project idea and the data that you will be working with. Most importantly, your description should include a description of how you have collected the data set or how you intent to do so. This description should be:

- **Specific:** Specific about what the data will be (for example, number of rows and columns, and the name and meaning of each column).
- **Measurable:** Clear when you've have actually collected what you said you would (for example, if you were specific about the extent of data, then it is easy to argue that you did what you set out to do).
- **Achievable:** Possible for you to do without overburdening yourself (for example, considering the length of the semester and when you are expected to start to collect data, there is a limit to how many weeks you can spend on this before you have useable data for your project).
- **Realistic:** Realistic about how you will do it (for example, you might explain that you have background knowledge about some areas of your project that might give you an advantage during the project).
- **Timely:** Concrete about the timeframe for when you expect to have the data (For example, March 12, which would allow you to collect data for one week after you have received feedback).

These requirements are there to help you spend you time well. If you've seen something like this before, maybe you recognize that this follows the SMART acronym. If not, well, Google's your friend.

I will comment on the document within one week after hand-in. If I think the document works for setting your direction, I will approve it. If I think it needs more clarity about what you will do or your approach to data collection, I will suggest how to improve it and ask you to submit a revision as soon as possible and at most one week later.

REMEMBER: The project brief is a working document!