

Case Study 8: Grade Inflation

QI, ALAIN, GREG, JIE, WEN

RECAP OF CASE STUDY

Our job in this case study is to think of different options for graphs targeted on different audiences upon a table published in the Minnesota Daily for an article on grade in action. The table presented grade percentage by college for two academic years. These grade percentages were broken down by letter grade. These tables are to be used as evidence of grade.

TWO MAIN PROBLEMS OF THE TABLE

- Too many numbers on each table.
- Trends are not clear.

SUGGESTIONS

The suggestions are given depending different demands. Here are few examples.

Excellent: in this case, people are more interested in the percentage of students who got a *A* (or *A-*, *A+*). A bar chart is suggested to compare the percentage of *A*'s between schools and years. Some other examples such as the easiness of the course all belong to this.

Distribution: sometimes people may concern the distribution of the grade. A pie chart in this case is clear and simple.

Comparison: here it means the comparison with different years. If we have enough time point, we may get a scatter plot with lines to show the trends. If only two years involved like this table, pie chart or colored lines with arrow may be the good choice.

OUR WORK

After discussion, our team decided to use bar chart to compare GPAs. Besides, we would like to demonstrate both the comparisons among colleges and between years within one college.

GPA Grade in two Years

