Introduction to Visualization

Today's lab is about **emphasis**. In the context of this class, emphasis is:

- a visual prompt (some text, a shape, a bold color, a different style) on top of the data being visualized that the author brings attention to; and
- a special part of the data (an outlier, a maximum / minimum, a special event) that is important to the message of the visualization; and
- a choice of which data to present (a selection, an average, a progression) and how to present it (choice of visual).

*Emphasis* and *message* are related concepts. Emphasis makes the message clearer. The message indicates how the emphasis should be interpreted.

That which is emphasized is (or should be) **small in number**, relative to how much is being visualized. The more things are emphasized in a visualization, the more they lose their distinction from the rest of the visual.

- 1. Find emphasis in existing visualizations.
  - (a) Look through the distributed materials, or online, and find (at least) 5 different visualizations with some sort of emphasis. List all the ways emphasis is being done.
  - (b) Share these ways with the class
- 2. Revisit your visualizations from Project 1.
  - (a) Choose a visual and add describe how you would emphasis to it. Each member of your group does this.
  - (b) Share among your group members how you would add emphasis.
  - (c) **Bonus:** Redo your visual with the added emphasis.
- 3. Submit to ORTUS a text document listing:
  - the different ways of emphasis you saw in step 1.
  - how you would add emphasis in step 2.
  - Bonus: an image of your original and improved visual from Project 1.