In-Practice Perspective: Presenting the Data

Free Ways to Empower Students to Tell Local Stories and Engage with the News

About Me!

- I teach 10th grade English and journalism at State High
- Before that, I was a student journalist at Slippery Rock University's newspaper, *The Rocket*
- We had a multimedia focus, mainly using graphics and videos
- We created animated data content using free tools to help better visualize data
- One of my core beliefs is that students can learn about reading news from writing news and becoming the writer and journalist

What Our Team Has Used:

What is SGA? (Illustrator/Premiere) – 3rd place Multimedia Story, SCJ

COVID Cases at SRU (Flourish)

Sigma Tau Delta event (integrated video)

History in transition (Illustrator)

Other Projects

[Female Writers in British History](#) (a Brit Lit creative project I made using Timeline)

LOTS of Canva and Piktochart creations - Infographic project in English class

Why Use Tools?

- Visually interesting and interactive
- Flourish - mobile device compatibility
- Students need to consider how to best show data and information - returning to [Code of Ethics](#)
- Students need to focus on audience, specifically local audience
- Students take the experiences creating these graphics/stories back to their reading of the news
- Students should consider readability/accessibility, taking the experience back to their own reading of the news

Free Tools

Flourish.Studio

LINK

Northwestern Knightlab

LINK

Storytelling

We build easy-to-use tools that can help you tell better stories.

Juxtapose JS

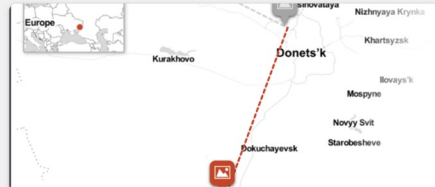Easy-to-make frame comparisons.

Scene VR

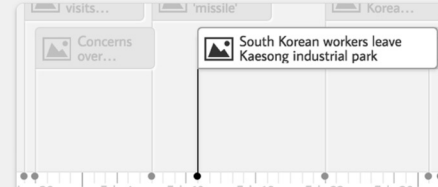Easy-to-make VR stories.

Soundcite JS

Seamless inline audio.

Storyline JS

Tell the story behind the numbers.

StoryMap JS

Maps that tell stories.

Timeline JS

Easy-to-make, beautiful timelines.

Sample Timeline: THON

My Sample Product:
https://cdn.knightlab.com/libs/timeline3/latest/embed/index.html?source=1JaU9Ahid QqnoFGTgiyr9KB7Tueti5fUdqFmSJarpJZA&font=Bitter-Raleway&lang=en&initial_zoom=2&height=650

Google Sheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JaU9AhidQqnoFGTgiyr9KB7Tueti5fUdq FmSJarpJZA/edit?usp=sharing

Timeline

- Pros:
  - Google Sheets integration
  - Easy collaboration with peers
  - Easy to publish once done
  - Can embed on websites
- Cons:
  - Template can be intimidating
  - Slightly harder to customize, but can be done when taking your time
  - May take extra time to get past tech issues (i.e. I had problems getting Twitter to work and had to resort to screenshots)

Flourish

https://app.flourish.studio/templates

PASSHE COVID-19 cases for spring 2021

Replay | Scores | Ranks

Bloomsburg 1
Shippensburg 2
Edinboro 3
Millersville 4
Slippery Rock 5
Kutztown 6
Indiana 7
California 8
Clarion 9
East Stroudsburg 10
Mansfield 11
West Chester 12
Lock Haven 13
**Cheyney 14**
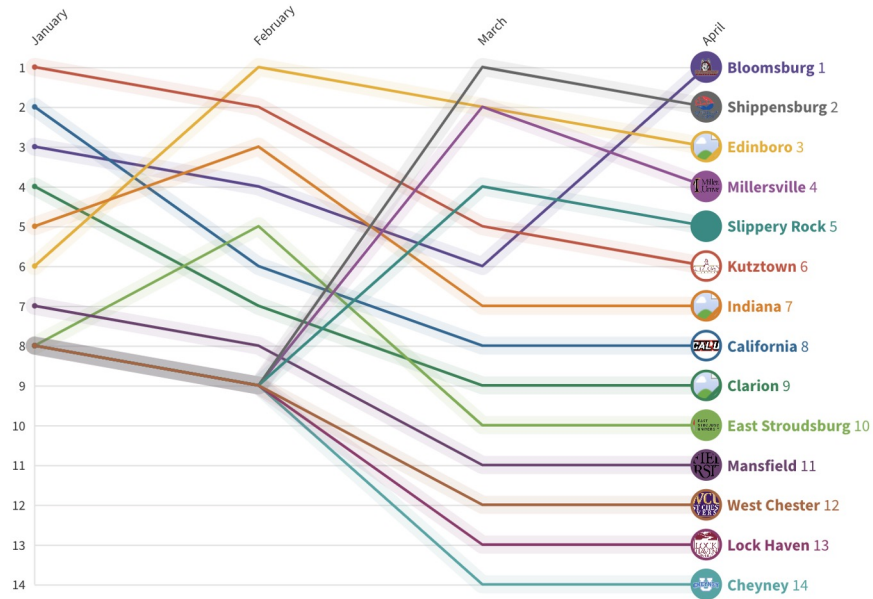
A Flourish chart

Editor's note: All data regarding Coronavirus case numbers was collected on April 8 at 10:30 a.m. For the most up-to-date case numbers, visit SRU's COVID-19 dashboard or access a university's dashboard using its website.

Flourish Chart

Flourish - Line Chart Demo

Note that this graphic (see link above) is *LARGE*. In the future, I would have focused adjusted my data set to focus my story angle.

PSU Branch Campus Undergrad Enrollment
By Hannah Shumsky on 26 Feb 2023
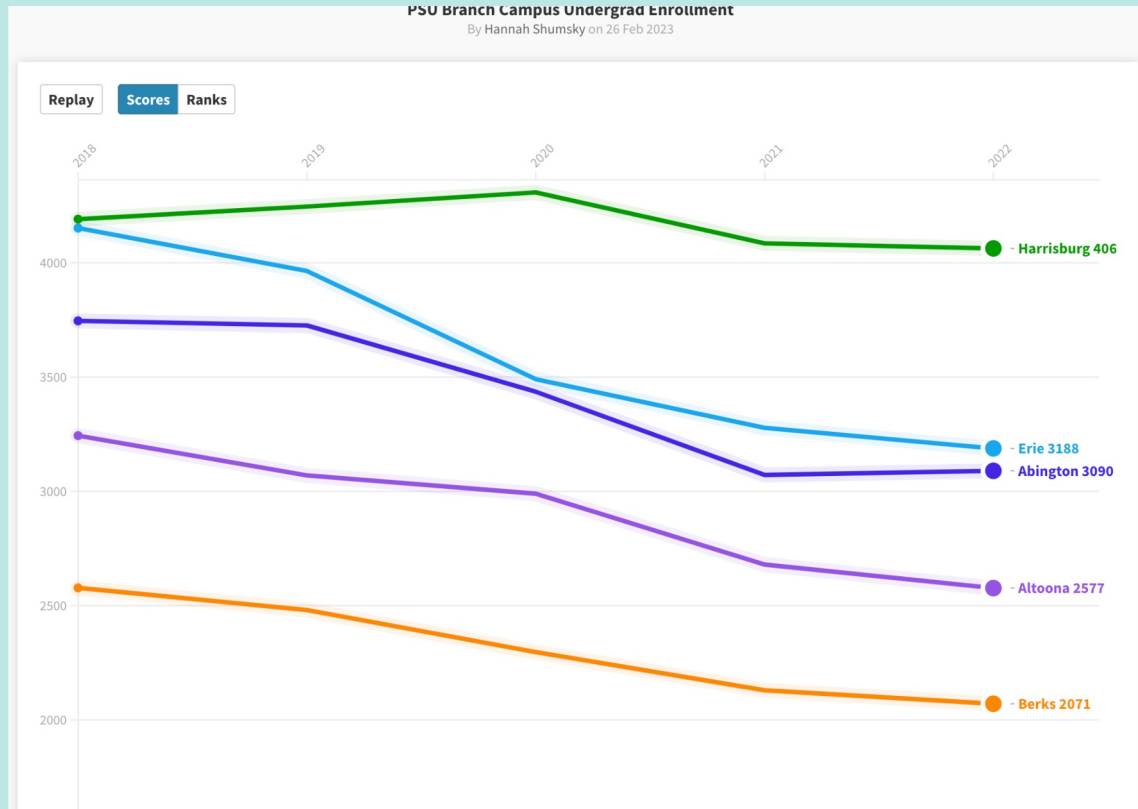
Flourish

- Pros:
  - Google Sheets integration
  - Easy to publish once done
  - LOTS of options, many are free
  - Can upload data or enter it right in Flourish
  - Canva-friendly
  - Can embed on websites
- Cons:
  - Templates may take time to learn
  - Hard to narrow down options
  - Some templates require a premium account
  - Can't collaborate on multiple accounts without premium

Not Teaching Journalism? Other Ways to Use These Tools

- Highlight changes of data overtime
- Timelines of events overtime
- Mathematical analysis of news events
- Retelling of news events, requiring an analysis of data
- Give students a practice data set to practice storytelling