

Activity: Evaluate and Revise a Figure (20–25 minutes)

Instructions:

Choose a figure you are currently using or plan to use (paper, poster, presentation, or report).

1) Identify the Message (5 minutes)

Write one sentence answering:

- What is the main message of this figure?
- What evidence supports that message?

If you cannot write this clearly, the figure needs revision.

2) Check Context (5 minutes)

Answer briefly:

- Who is the intended audience?
- Where will this figure appear?
- Is the current design appropriate for that setting?

3) Evaluate Signal vs Noise (10 minutes)

Ask yourself:

- Is there unnecessary data or decoration?
- Are labels, legends, and colors helping or distracting?
- Could a different figure or plot type communicate the message more clearly?

Write down one concrete change you would make to improve clarity.

4) Optional Extension

Sketch a revised version of the figure or list changes you would make if redesigning it from scratch

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