In this exercise I hope to accomplish the necessary skills to apply numbers in a graphical form. I also plan on presenting the graphs in the most easy to interpret way that I can by selecting the correct type of graph. This will be done based upon my knowledge gained in the class notes as well as the online movie. I will demonstrate the graphs purposes by writing a short description about it. Due to the fact that I already have some previous knowledge of this subject I would hope that this exercise just builds off and reinforces what I already know.

1.

Based upon the information in Figure 1.1 the best time to travel to both Australia and New Zealand over the past year was during February and March. The exchange rate was the highest in these months in both countries. For example, the high exchange rate in New Zealand was 1.91 in both February and March of 2009. This means that one U.S. dollar was worth $1.91 in New Zealand.

2.

Figure 1.2 shows that while including quotations in a Yahoo! Keyword search returns far fewer results, the other three search engines are not as sensitive to the use of quotations. This may suggest that the Yahoo! database is much larger but not as finely categorized as the others.

3.

Figure 1.3
The method that I used to compile the numbers for Figure 1.3 was to recall exactly who was in the class. The date may have influenced the results but my data collection was based more on a visual picture as compared to actually seeing and counting every person.

4.

The following graph (Figure 1.4) shows the alfalfa hay production for the state of Michigan from 2005-2009. As you can tell there are some definite trends associated with the graph. In 2007 there appears to be a dip in the production of alfalfa. Based on my experience I believe this was caused by many farmers in Michigan abandoning hay for corn on the basis of selling the commodity for ethanol processing. The price of alfalfa happened to rise in 2007 because there was less production so it became scarcer. Due to the rise in price of alfalfa, farmers began to grow more looking to capitalize on higher prices and less competition as compared to corn.

![Michigan Alfalfa Hay Production][1]

Figure 1.4