The purpose of the graphing and charting assignment is to practice different methods of depicting data. We will be using various styles of graphs and charts including line graphs, bar graphs, pie charts, and a few others. It is important for us to understand the task we have to complete in this assignment because in just about every major within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources we will encounter data and also have to interpret data in various aspects of our lives. Understanding graphs and charts as well as knowing how to produce them is very important because data can be manipulated to be interpreted differently than what is being shown. Some data is not appropriate for certain types of styles and could be enhanced if formatted into the best style possible.

Figure 1 shows the currency exchange trends from the US dollar to Australian and New Zealand Dollar over the last year on the first of every month beginning with October 2009. From an economical basis, a US student traveling to Australia this year would have received the best exchange rate or value for the US dollar in June of 2010 at about 1.17. Also, from an economical basis a student traveling to New Zealand would have received the best exchange rate or value for the US dollar in June of 2010 at about 1.44. I chose to use a line chart because I am comparing two variables over a time period or continuous trend data.
Figure 1; US Dollar to AUD and NZD dollar currency exchange rates (Interbank Rates) from October 1, 2009 to October 1, 2010.

Figure 2 shows the results for different search engines when the term nonpoint source pollution is searched with and without quotation marks. The data we are working with is nominal data so the bar chart would be the most appropriate charting technique for this question. Figure 2 shows that the google.com search engine provides the most hits for the term nonpoint source pollution with and without quotation marks.
Figure 2: Search engine results from September 23, 2010 with and without quotations marks.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of males and females enrolled in TSM 251 Fall 2010. The data was gathered using Angel and classmates to identify the total number of students male and female. A pie chart is the best charting style for this data because the data is easily distinguished in pie slices, or percentage of a whole.
Figure 3; The distribution of male and female students in TSM 251 Fall 2010.

Figure 4 shows the distribution of the educational attainment in Grand Rapids, MI. I plan to return to Grand Rapids following graduation as I apply for graduate school. I wanted to see the statistics of the educational attainment as it relates to my community in the last census years of 2006-2008. I decided to use a pie chart style for this data because collectively the data will represent a whole as well as the pie chart will help with easily distinguishing the differences in educational attainment.
In conclusion, I have learned several new things from completing the graphing and charting assignment. For example, how to manipulate data into the best graph and chart style, how to properly title a graph within a document, and also how to link graphs on a document to the actual Excel spreadsheet. Using the proper graph and charts to show data can be advantageous or manipulative depending on its purpose and intentions. Lastly, I understand how to better relate the suggested uses of specific types of graphs and charts as they relate to the data. I’m a lot more comfortable with using the graphing and charting techniques now that I have completed this assignment.
Bibliography


