The following document consists of five graphs that illustrate a variety of data and graphing techniques. To prepare this assignment, I researched currency exchange rates, search engine results, percentages of male and females, percentages of funding as well as the percentage values of an organization’s national enrollment. Before creating this assignment, I evaluated if a line graph, a bar graph or a pie chart would best represent the data that I found. While preparing this assignment, I learned how to determine the appropriate graphing technique that would best enhance the point that I was trying to make. I discovered that a graph serves little purpose unless referred to in the narrative. This assignment was created using the Microsoft Word and Excel programs.

According to Figure 1, a student from the United States would have wanted to travel to New Zealand on September 2, 2006 where the rate of US currency to New Zealand currency was 1.64. A student from the United States traveling to Australia would have wanted to visit on April 2, 2007 when the rate was 1.39. These two currencies correlate to the highest dots on each of the lines. I chose to represent this information using a line chart in order to differentiate between each of the months and show the trend. The values for the year 2006 did not vary a great deal. On the FXHistory website I set the table margins from January 2, 2006 to December 2, 2006.
According to Figure 2, a student searching for information on nonpoint source pollution should utilize the Google search engine. Google offers nearly 2 million results for the search of nonpoint source pollution, the highest of any of the search engines. For the search with quotations, Google found the highest amount of results as well with 764,000. The difference in the height of the two Google bars illustrates that the search for items on nonpoint source pollution with quotations is a specialized search and offers the greatest results. According to the graph, Google far outweighs Ask.com when using a search with or without quotations.

I used a bar chart to represent this information because I wanted to show the rankings of the results from the different search engines nominal data. By glancing at the graph, one notices that Google has the most search results and the greatest difference in results when using quotations in the search.

This information was obtained from:

As illustrated in Figure 3, a greater percentage of females attended TSM 251 class on October 23, 2007. According to the pie chart, 67% of the class was female and 33% was males. I chose to use a pie chart to represent this information because I wanted to represent the percentage of the whole of males and females. By looking at the chart, one notices that the pink portion of the graph outweighs the blue and therefore can conclude that there were more females present in class that day. This information was obtained on October 23, 2007 at
12:40 pm. I counted those individuals that were in TSM 251 class and prepared a percentage value for 8 females and 4 males.

According to Figure 4, the greatest portion of funding for Michigan State University Extension is offered by the state which accounts for 42%. I chose to represent this information using a pie chart because the sources of funding represent proportions of the whole. The slices of the graph accurately describe the source of least funding from the general fund to the greatest source, state funding. It also shows that the second greatest source is county level funding. I chose to represent this information because it correlates to my mentor project with MSU Extension. As I help to prepare the Annual Report, I am becoming educated on how MSU Extension is funded and of the support that it receives from the government. This information was obtained from:

As illustrated in Figure 5, the greatest percentage of enrollment in the National 4-H program during 2002-2003 was children in grades 4th through 6th which represented 40%. I chose to represent this data using a pie chart because each school grade group represents a different sector of the pie. These values are represented as proportions of the total enrollment in 4-H. The group with the least enrollment was 10th through 12th graders only accounting for 8% of the total. I chose to research this information because it relates to the interview that I am conducting for the Annual Report. I am interviewing a past 4-H member and her experiences. This information provides how many members were enrolled when she was involved in the program. This information was collected from: