

Visualizing the Transatlantic Slave Trade

In this assignment you will use *Voyage's* data to generate a visualization that will lead to a greater understanding of the transatlantic slave trade. You can download the data at <http://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/download> or by using the searchable database at <http://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/search>. Using the Visualization Periodic Table (http://www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/periodic_table.html) created by Ralph Lengler and Martin J. Eppler, choose a visualization method that will help novices and/or experts better understand the transatlantic slave trade. The visualization you create can be generated by a computer or drawn by hand. I encourage you to think about the resources you have available to you for this project. In particular, look to your library as a source. It might have data tools in its computer lab and, most importantly, your librarian might be able to offer assistance.

After creating your visualization, you will compose a guide to your visualization that explicitly discusses where and how you got your data, identifies and defends the choices you made during the research process, and explains how your visualizations connects and extends our current understanding of the transatlantic slave trade. Your guide should explicitly discuss how you used historical thinking skills (<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/historical-thinking-skills.pdf>) in the creation of your visualization. Remember to use sound research practices when creating your visualization. It will be much easier to write your visualization's guide if you carefully document your process. If you are stuck look at the prompts below:

- What are the variables available through *Voyages*? Your data visualization does not need to look at every aspect of the trade. Is there one or two you can isolate to get a better picture of some facet of the trade?
- Look online for examples of other visualizations of the transatlantic slave trade. What makes them work? How could they be improved?

Rubric for Visualizing the Slave Trade

<p>The data visualization depicts an aspect of the transatlantic slave trade, but does so unclearly in a manner that could be confusing to the viewer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 points</p>	<p>The data visualization depicts an aspect of the transatlantic slave trade, but the visualization adds little to the viewer's understanding of the trade.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 points</p>	<p>The data visualization powerfully depicts an aspect of the transatlantic slave trade in a clear manner that adds to the viewer's understanding of the trade.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 points</p>
<p>The data visualization's use of data from the <i>Voyages</i> database is inconsistent and/or inaccurate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 points</p>	<p>The data visualization's use of data from <i>Voyages</i> is accurate, but not clearly cited.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 points</p>	<p>The data visualization's use of data from <i>Voyages</i> is accurate, consistent and clearly cited.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 points</p>
<p>The accompanying guide fails to explain the choices made by the author in its selection OR use of data.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 points</p>	<p>The accompanying guide explains the choices made by the author in its selection AND use of data, but does not rationalize those choices.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 points</p>	<p>The accompanying guide explains the choices made by the author in its selection AND use of data. It rationalizes those choices and demonstrates an understanding of the consequences of those choices.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 points</p>
<p>The visualization uses but does not identify historical thinking skills in its creation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 points</p>	<p>The accompanying guide identifies but does not explain the historical thinking skills used in the data visualization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 points</p>	<p>The accompanying guide identifies and explains the historical thinking skills used in the data visualization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 points</p>
<p>The accompanying guide explains either where OR how it obtained the data for its visualization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 points</p>	<p>The accompanying guide explains where AND how it obtained the data for its visualization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 points</p>	<p>The accompanying guide explains where AND how it obtained the data for its visualization. It provides an easy to follow guide on how to reproduce these results.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 points</p>

Total: _____/24 points

A score of zero is possible on any row of the above rubrics if the student does not meet the standards asked for in the first column.