



Figures and their legends

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| CATEGORY | Best | Okay | Needs Work |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Figure Title | Title provides the take home message of the Figure Subpanels have their own titles | Title is descriptive of the contents of the figure but does not give the conclusion | There is no title OR Title is speculative |
| Choice of Data to Include | All data that are critical to conclusion are present No extraneous data are present | All data that are critical to conclusion are present Non-critical data may also be present | Data are missing that are critical to experiment Extraneous data overwhelm the figure |
| Choice of How to Present Data | Data presentation allows the reader to quickly assess whether the conclusion is sound | Data presentation requires reader to perform additional work to determine whether conclusion is sound | Data presentation does not allow reader to determine whether conclusion is sound Data presentation completely inappropriate |
| Labeling | Figure labeling allows reader to assess the figure without looking to the legend Only labels that help the reader assess the figure are present | Figure labeling requires reader to turn to the legend to understand the figure Extraneous labels are present | Important labels are missing |
| Figure Caption | Figure caption describes the data in just enough detail for the reader to assess the data Figure caption does NOT provide justification for experiment or interpretation of results | Too much methodology Figure legend provides extraneous items, such as justification or interpretation | Figure legend is missing critical information for assessing the data in the figure |

