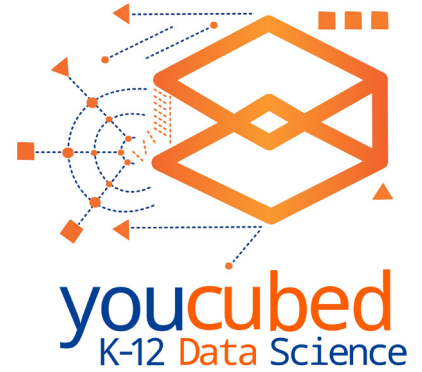


# What is a “Data Talk”?



Many of our lessons in the units start with what we are calling a Data Talk. For those of you who know the important pedagogical routine called a Number Talk, you will see parallels. In a data talk we show students a data visualization and ask them what they see, and what they are curious about. One of the best sites for sources of data talks is the [New York Times: What's Going on in this Graph?](#) Students are prompted with the questions: what do you notice? What do you wonder? We like those questions.

Data talks provide a space for students to practice considering and interpreting a variety of data and data representations in a low-stake, exploratory environment. We have provided some ideas for data talks but feel free to choose a data visualization of your choosing. An ideal data visualization is one that is interesting or relevant to the students, but also that displays data in a way that is new to students or that might have some quirks or features that make the visualization harder to read (and often more interesting!). Students are shown the visualization, given some time to process it, and discuss what they notice. These can be observations about how the visual is structured, a question the data is answering, or a lingering curiosity that is raised by the data or that the visual doesn't address.

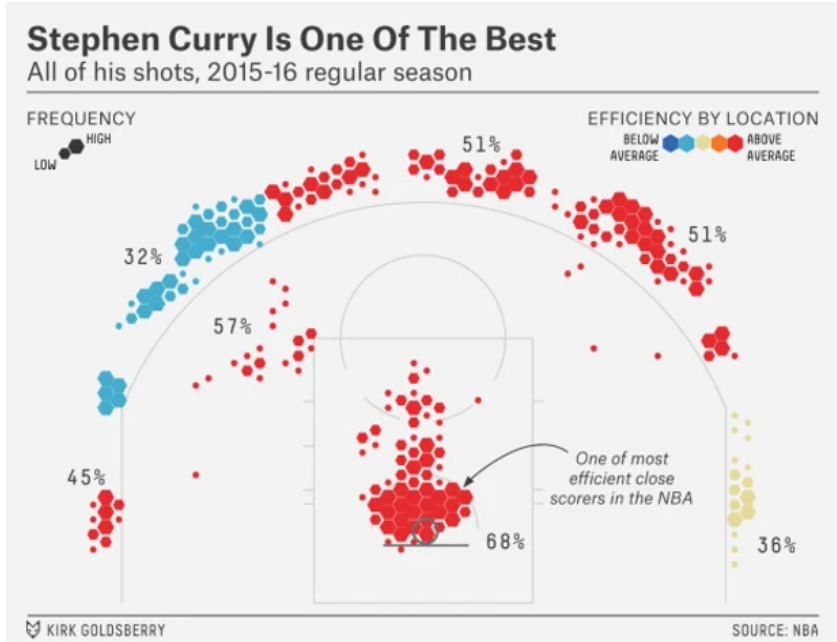
Below are a few examples of data visualizations that can be used for data talks:



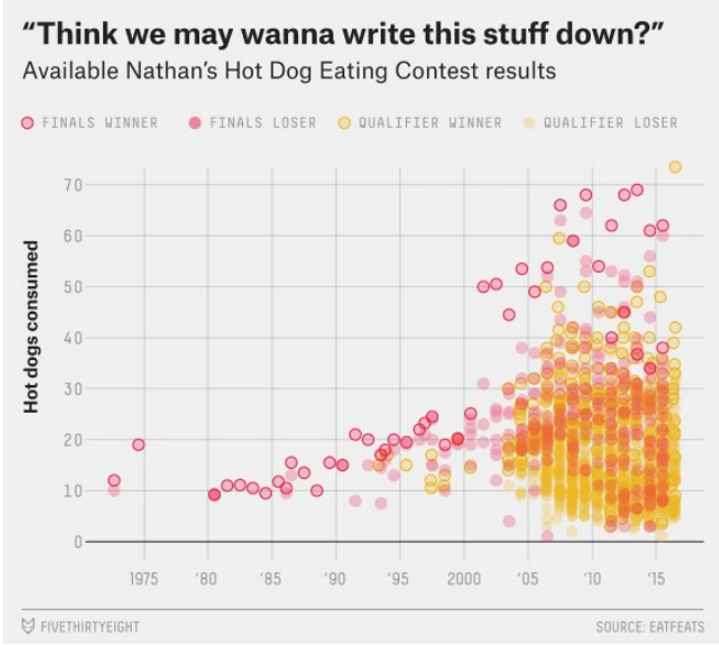
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/national/tracking-hurricane-florence/>

For example, some noticings and questions from this Washington Post visual of the path of hurricane Florence might be:

- The storm began in Africa and it became a tropical storm and then a hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Assuming the dots are equally spaced in time, where they are closer together it means the storm moved slower.
- I wonder how common this path is compared to other hurricanes throughout history.



<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/stephen-curry-is-the-revolution/>



<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/competitive-hot-dog-eaters-have-made-america-great-again/>