Displaying data exercise

Choose three consecutive figures or tables, either of your own data (with legends) or from a published paper. Each figure must include at least three panels. Assess how well each figure or table follows the guidelines in this lesson:

1) How well does the order of the figures and tables lead to a narrative? How well does each provide motivation for the next one? How could you re-order the figures (or rearrange the panels within the figures) to make the story flow more naturally or to make later experiments seem more important or necessary?

2) Why do you think the authors chose to display the data in each panel or table the way they did? How does the format fit the purpose? If it doesn’t fit very well, what format would work better?

3) How well does each figure or table emphasize the result? How easy or difficult was it to interpret the result each one shows? How would you revise the figure to make it easier for a reader to understand and identify what’s important?

4) How well does the legend emphasize the result? To what degree does it allow the reader to decide for herself whether the data support the result? How would you revise it to make it serve these purposes better?

Turn in:
- The source of the figures you analyzed and revised (if they’re published, give the citation; if not, they must be your own)
- The figures themselves at a readable size and resolution in a Word or Powerpoint document
- Your answers to questions 1-6