Creating infographs with Adobe Illustrator

Creating graphs with Adobe Illustrator is easy and the results are far superior to those created in other programs because they can be scales without losing resolution and detail, they import easily into InDesign and they are more flexible to design and edit.

Step by Step:

1. Open Illustrator (Ai in the dock); if you are prompted, select Print document. Under the File menu select Document Setup.
2. In Document Setup: Size = Custom, Units = Picas, Width and Height = size from your InDesign layout (create the chart to the size needed on your layout), View = leave unchecked.
3. Select the desired chart tool from the Toolbox. This tool is "spring loaded" which means that many tools are located under the one option that appears in the Toolbox; click and hold to select the type of infograph you want. Pie charts are good for showing parts of a single whole thing; bar graphs are good for comparing amounts; line graphs are good for showing changes over time. Think and experiment.
4. Drag the Chart tool across the area where you want your graph to appear. If it is too large or too small, you can change the size later using the Scale tool located in the Toolbox or under the Object menu.
5. Enter your data into the table that appears when the Chart tool is released. Click the check mark to apply the data. You can edit the data later by selecting the chart with the selection tool, and then holding the control key down and clicking again. In the dialog that opens, select data. You can also experiment with other types of chart by selecting Type from this menu (Type means type of graph, to text).
6. Use the Type tool from the main Toolbox to add headlines, and other information to your chart. Hint: Use Layers to lock the graph and making it easier to move type around on the page. See the example below for essential information that goes on the chart.

Summer Vacation Preferences — Headline

What aspect is most important to in a summer vacation? — What the poll question asked

Spending time with family 14%

Shopping 18%

Amusement 25%

Tropical 29%

Experiencing a new culture 14%

— How the respondents answered.

Note that you need to provide contrast between the type and the shaded areas of the graph.

200 Kennedy students grades 9-12 were surveyed during the week of May 18-22. They were asked to rate what aspects were most important to them in vacation. — **Who was polled, when and where.**

By Chloe Brigl — **Byline**