Making a chart

Download: ron-howard-gross.xlsx from Files > Course Materials.

1. Select and copy the graphable data column from Excel.

2. Open Illustrator and create a new, one-artboard document (Command-N).

3. Select the Type tool, click (rather than drawing a text box) in the pastboard area (the dark gray), and paste your Excel data.

4. Use Find and Replace (Edit > Find and Replace) to remove any commas or dollar signs.

5. Select the data, and copy it (Command-C).

6. Select the Bar Graph tool (any of the graphic tools will work at this

point – you can always change the chart after making it).

7. Draw a box on your page for the chart.

8. Paste the copied data into the floating spreadseet.

9. Hit the checkmark icon, or close the data window.

10. Return to Excel and copy the ten movie names.

11. Right-click your Illustrator chart, and choose "data."

12. Paste the copied movie names into the second column. Select the first column and cut it (Command-X), the paste it into the third column (Command-V). Cut the second and third columns, and paste into the first column. Dismiss the data window by clicking the red button when you are done.

13. Change color and type for you chart. Use the white arrow tool to sub-select the parts of the chart you want to change.

14. Add a headline, explainer, label, description, source and credit.

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	Backdraft								

This is the headline

This is the explainer. It can summarize the main point, but it is more effective if it connects the graphic with some point of interest – perhaps Ron Howard has a new movie coming out, or else he's agreed to direct a high-profile project – or else it adds a small piece of appropriate context.

THIS IS THE LABEL

And this is a line of finer detail that adds specifics to the label: what these bars actually mean

1	How the Grinch Stole Christmas	(2000)	\$439.0
2	Apollo 13	(1995)	\$363.0
3	The Da Vinci Code	(2006)	\$302.6
4	Ransom	(1996)	\$280.8
5	A Beautiful Mind	(2001)	\$269.2
6	Parenthood	(1989)	\$228.4
7	Solo: A Star Wars Story	(2018)	\$213.8
8	Cocoon	(1985)	\$195.7
9	Splash	(1984)	\$169.7
10	Backdraft	(1991)	\$168.5

Source: Where did this information come from?

Credit: Your name here

