Beware of Bias! Analyzing Misleading Graphs

Look at each graph or set of data carefully with your partner. Discuss your answers to each question, and then record your answers below.

Joseph got 75% on his science test. He told his parents that the mode for the test was 75%. He said, “More students got 75% than any other grade, so I didn’t actually do that poorly compared to my classmates.” The actual grades on the test were 75%, 75%, 75%, 81%, 85%, 86%, 90%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 96%, 97%, 98%, and 100%, but Joseph did not tell his parents the actual grades.

How did Joseph mislead his parents? ____________________________________

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

The Price of a Pound of Apples in Selected Cities in September 2000

How is this graph about apple prices misleading? __________________________

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

How could you change this graph to make it less misleading? ________________

___________________________________________

______________________________________________
What is the range of values used for the scale? ____________________________

How is this bar graph misleading? ______________________________________

______________________________________________

Headline: Batting Bluebirds Rules the Field This Year!

What does this headline from a sports news article make you think about the Bluebirds performance this season? ________________________________

______________________________________________

Does the graph show what the headline suggests? Why or why not? __________

______________________________________________