

2.5 Critical Thinking: Bad Graphs

*****refer to chapter problem on page 45.**

- * Some graphs are bad because they have errors, and some technically correct, but misleading.
- * Graphs give a *immediate visual image*. It is important to recognize bad or misleading graphs in order to keep from getting the wrong impression.
- * **Nonzero Axis:** Graphs are misleading if one or both of their axes begin at some value other than zero. The chapter problem shows such a graph. See the difference in that graph and the one on page 71.

The first graph (2-1) was posted on the CNN website. After many internet users complained, the second graph (2-9) was posted!

Pictographs: Three dimensional objects are sometimes used to show amounts. If you double the sides of a cube, the volume does not double. It increases by a factor of 8! See example b on page 72.

Here is the ONLY extra credit opportunity you will have in this class!

Find a misleading chart or graph in a newspaper or magazine.

You can not turn in anything printed from the internet!

Turn in the **original** chart or graph clipping from the newspaper or magazine with your name on it by the first test date and you will get 5 points extra credit on that test!