

Gesturing Display

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When we talk about data displays and the role of count, order, bins, and scale, I find it helpful to make gestures that communicate about the ideas—and to have students use them too. Here are some that we have found useful:

Order the Data

Sweep hands vertically from a small value to a high value or start with a high value and squeeze hands vertically for lower values. This corresponds well with a case-value graph or the ascending stairs in the student display shown in Unit 1.



Count the Data

Use fingers to enact counting each unique value, such as 4 “150’s” or 1 “140.”



Bin (Group) the Data

Start with hands spread horizontally and gesture a compression of sweeping all the values into a group. They might have started out very different but now they are treated as all the same. We **count** them as if they are all the same value, so that for 140-149, 3 143's and 2 145's are counted as 5.



Scale the Data

Start with hands indicating a bunch of data. Scaling spreads the data apart, so we move our hands apart.

