**Learning Log: Ask SMART questions about real life data sources**

**Instructions**You can use this document as a template for the learning log activity: Consider how data analysts approach tasks. Type your answers in this document, and save it on your computer or Google Drive.

We recommend that you save every learning log in one folder and include a date in the file name to help you stay organized. Important information like course number, title, and activity name are already included. After you finish your learning log entry, you can come back and reread your responses later to understand how your opinions on different topics may have changed throughout the courses.

To review detailed instructions on how to complete this activity, please return to Coursera: [Learning Log: Ask SMART questions about real life data sources.](https://www.coursera.org/learn/ask-questions-make-decisions/supplement/8vBEt/learning-log-ask-smart-questions-about-real-life-data-sources)

| **Date:** 16/11/2021 | **Course/topic:** Course 2: Ask Questions to Make Data-Driven Decisions | | |
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| **Learning Log:** Ask SMART questions about real life data sources | | |
| **Review your notes** | Before you begin your new entry, take a moment to locate and read the notes you took during your data conversation. Based on the answers to your well-prepared SMART questions, you should have a better context for your target audience now. Review those answers and start thinking about the following:   * Stakeholder’s business goals; in this case, the person you had a conversation with * Identifying the data needed to answer the SMART questions * Exploring what data the stakeholder already has * Determining the data that you don’t have, but need in order to answer the questions | | |
| **Reflection:** | Write 5-7 sentences (100-140 words) for each of the prompts below: | | |
| **Questions and responses:** | First, consider your data conversation and how it went. Write 5-7 sentences (100-140) words about your experience with your data conversation and using SMART questions. Here are some questions to help you get started:   * **Was there anything challenging about getting the conversation started?** * **Were there questions you didn’t get to ask?** * **Did you manage your time effectively?** * **Did you take notes? Are they as detailed as you need them to be?** * **Are you missing any information? Is there anything that you still find unclear or vague?** * **If you could do the conversation over again, is there anything you would change?**   I chatted with a Student Hostel Incharge on food management and I asked the following SMART questions:  How do you select the food menu in your hostel everyday? How is the range of food consumption on a daily basis? Are there any factors that affect food consumptions? Are there any factors that affect food preparations?  The hostel food menu is a standard fixed menu. On a daily basis the food consumption varies based on the menu. If a particular student does not likes the dish served on a particular day then he might not turn up for lunch. In that case the food prepared might go to waste. If the students like a particular dish on the menu then there is a high chance that there may be a shortage for the dish. Also it may affect the ingredients usage, amount of ingredients bought etc. Once we study the preference of the students and make changes in the menu based on that we can reduce the food wastage.  **Next, turn your attention to your notes and reflect on what you know about the data itself. Write 5-7 sentences (100-140 words) about the data sources that are potentially available for this project. Here are some questions to help you get started:**   * **What are the sources of data available for the project?**   The no. of students staying in the hostel, the ingredients list, the quantity of ingredients and amount spent. The food menu.   * **Which data sources were qualitative and which were quantitative? Explain your answer.**   No. of students, ingredients list - quantitative  The Menu - qualitative   * **What decisions could you make when considering each data source separately? Could you make different decisions about the data if you combined it? If so, give an example.**   From the ingredients and pricing list we can find how many items are purchased, how often a particular item is purchased, how much is spent on various items, etc.  From the menu - what items do the students prefer, why don't they like an item, why they prefer certain items, etc.   * **Is there any kind of data that isn’t available, but you would like to find? If so, what is it, and why would you like to know more about it?**   Yes. It would help to find out the students' food preference - Veg/ Non Veg and also any allergies. Then it will give a better insight on why don't they eat certain items on the menu. | | |