

# Self-Reflection: Stack Overflow

 [coursera.org/learn/analyze-data/quiz/Opk0B/self-reflection-stack-overflow/attempt](https://coursera.org/learn/analyze-data/quiz/Opk0B/self-reflection-stack-overflow/attempt)



## Congratulations! You passed!

Grade received 100%

To pass 100% or higher



## Activity overview

In this activity, you'll learn how to ask the data analytics community questions about the tools and programming languages you've been using in this course. You'll examine best practices for writing questions, which can help you refine the questions you ask. Knowing where to find help and how to ask questions makes you a more efficient data analyst.

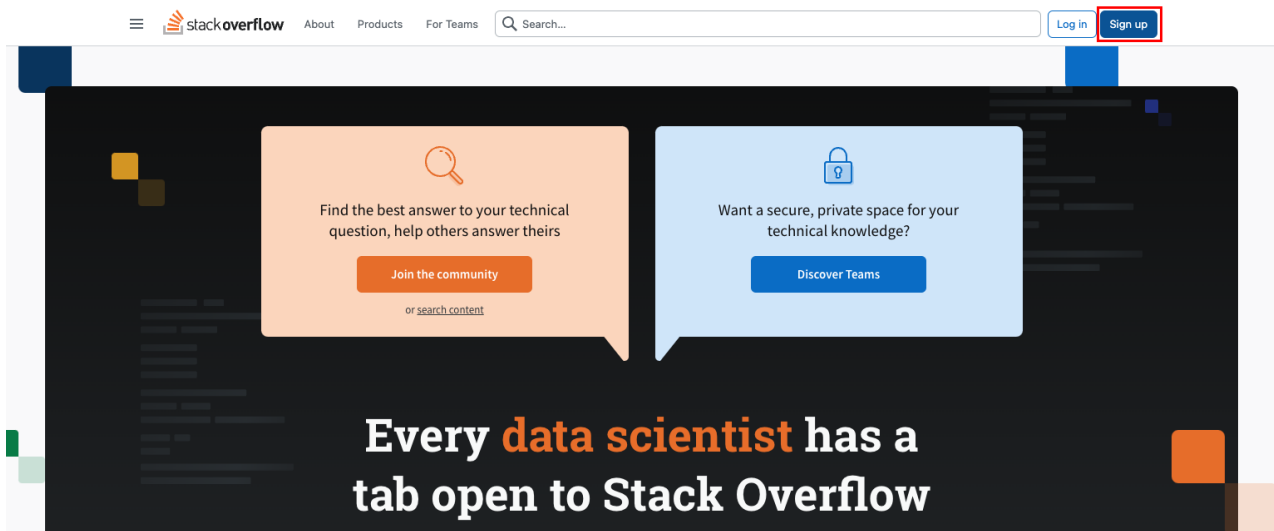
Follow the instructions to complete each step of the activity. Then answer the question at the end of the activity before going to the next course item.

All data professionals get stuck at times and have questions. Fortunately, there are many resources available and a dynamic community to help. One such resource is Stack Overflow.

Stack Overflow is an online platform where data analysts and programmers ask code-related questions, and peers suggest answers. It provides an outlet for quick problem-solving and access to a wide-ranging knowledge base with networking and career development opportunities. You can ask questions about tools, programming languages, and much more.

If you do not have an account, complete the following steps to sign up for Stack Overflow.

1. Navigate to the [Stack Overflow](#) website.
2. Select the **Sign up** button.



3. Enter the display name you want to use, your email address, a password, and any other required information.

The image shows the sign-up form on the Stack Overflow website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Stack Overflow logo, links for 'About', 'Products', and 'For Teams', a search bar, and 'Log in' and 'Sign up' buttons. Below the navigation bar is a large light gray area. On the left side of this area, there is a section titled 'Join the Stack Overflow community' with four bullet points: 'Get unstuck — ask a question', 'Unlock new privileges like voting and commenting', 'Save your favorite questions, answers, watch tags, and more', and 'Earn reputation and badges'. Below this section, there is a link to 'Collaborate and share knowledge with a private group for FREE. Get Stack Overflow for Teams free for up to 50 users.' On the right side of the gray area, there is a sign-up form. At the top of the form, there are three buttons: 'Sign up with Google', 'Sign up with GitHub', and 'Sign up with Facebook'. Below these buttons, there are four input fields: 'Display name', 'Email', 'Password', and a reCAPTCHA checkbox labeled 'I'm not a robot'. Below the reCAPTCHA checkbox, there is a link to 'reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms'. Below the input fields, there is a checkbox labeled 'Opt-in to receive occasional product updates, user research invitations, company announcements, and digests.' Below this checkbox, there is a 'Sign up' button. At the bottom of the form, there is a link to 'terms of service' and a link to 'privacy policy and code of conduct'.

Manual fields include Display name, Email, Password, and a check box that indicates you are not a robot. The Sign up button is below the check box.

4. Select **Sign up**.

5. Once you've signed up for your account, Stack Overflow will send you an email to complete your registration. Select the **Complete your registration** link.

6. You'll be prompted to upload a new photo and add any tags about technology that you use or are interested in. Once you've made any desired updates, select **Create my account**.

7. You'll be redirected to a welcome screen that provides you with an overview of the features and capabilities on Stack Overflow, as well as some how-to instruction.

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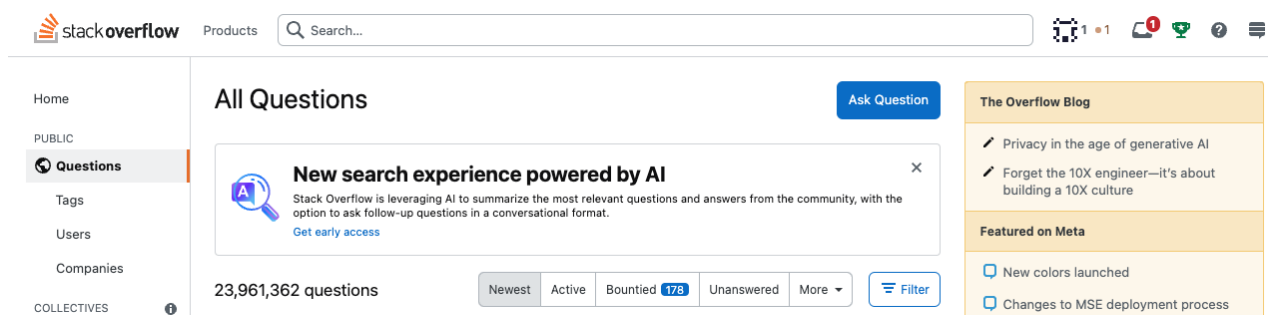
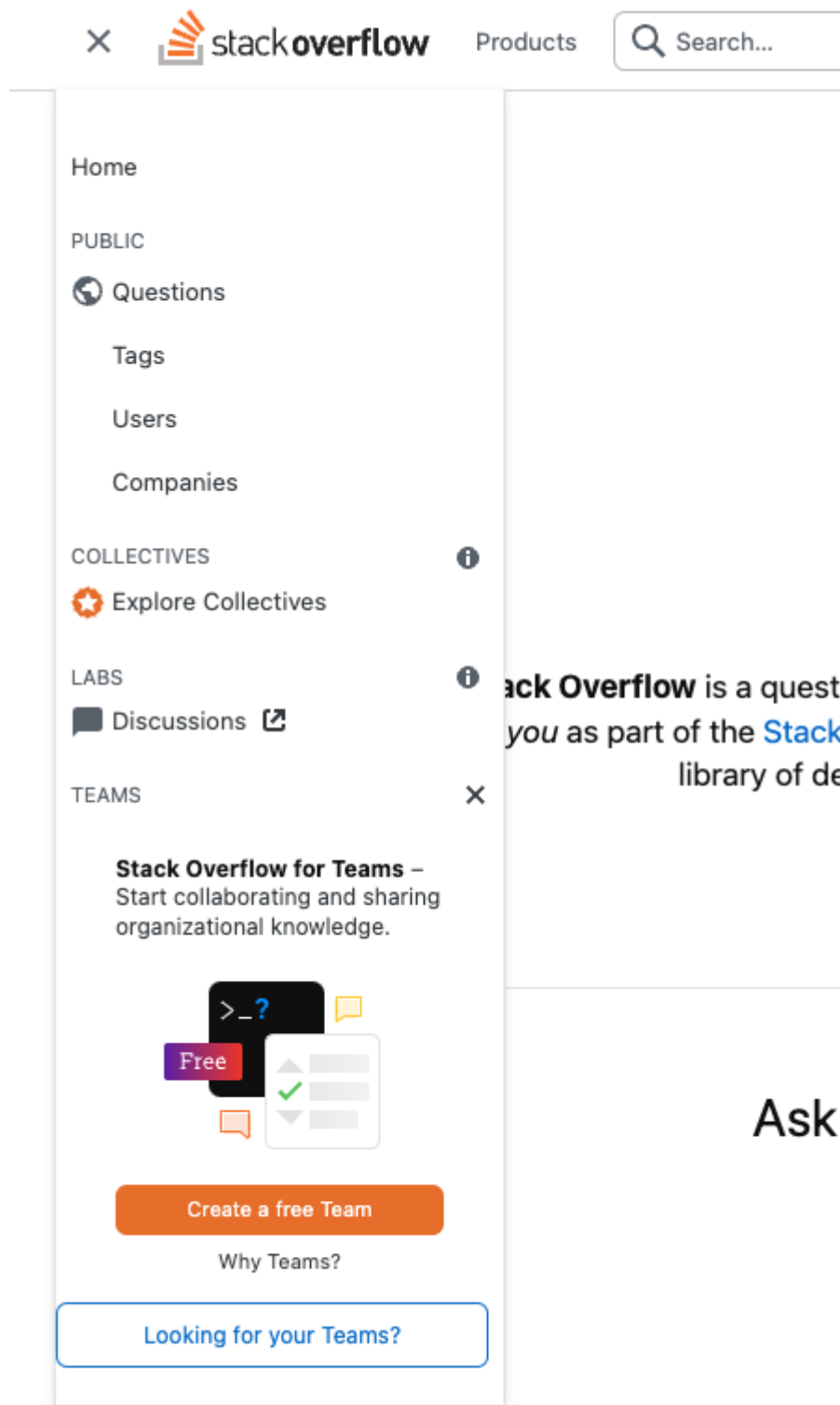
Stack Overflow has several resources you can use to search for information, including a **Questions** feature, a **Tags** feature, and a **Search** bar to help you find answers to the questions you might have.

## Questions

The **Questions** page provides different categories of questions for you to choose from. Some examples include Newest, Active, and Unanswered. To view all questions:

1. Select the Navigation menu (an icon of three stacked horizontal lines).
2. Select **Questions**.

Explore the types of questions listed under the different categories.



Tags

Tags are keywords or labels that can help you find questions. To view the Tags page:

### 1. Open the Navigation menu, then select **Tags**.

The screenshot shows the Stack Overflow 'Tags' page. On the left is a navigation sidebar with links to Home, PUBLIC, Questions, Tags (selected), Users, Companies, COLLECTIVES, Explore Collectives, LABS, Discussions, and TEAMS. The main content area is titled 'Tags' and includes a definition: 'A tag is a keyword or label that categorizes your question with other, similar questions. Using the right tags makes it easier for others to find and answer your question.' Below this is a search bar 'Filter by tag name' and a grid of tag cards. Each card has a tag name, a description, and statistics for questions and answers. The tags shown are javascript, python, java, c#, php, android, html, jquery, c++, css, ios, and sql.

To search for a specific tag:

1. Enter a tag name in the search bar, then press enter.
2. Select any tag to view a list of questions that have that particular tag.

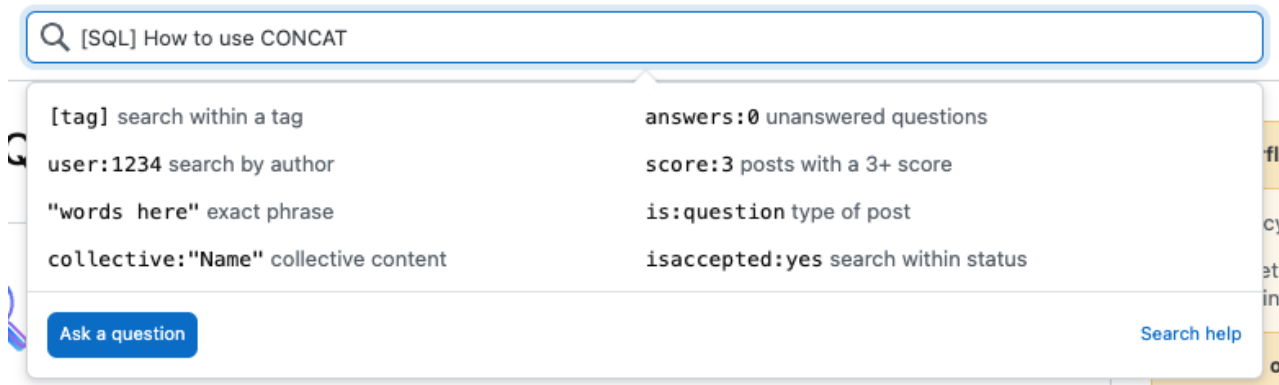
Different types of tags that you can search for include:

- Product lines
- Projects
- Teams
- Specific technologies
- Specific languages

You can also examine this [list of existing tags](#) for examples of which tags to use.

### Search bar

Use the **Search bar** to search for keywords and questions. To view only questions with a specific tag, include the tag name in brackets within your search. For example, if you want to only find questions that have the tag “SQL,” then type **[SQL]** in the search field along with your keywords or question.

A screenshot of the Stack Overflow search interface. At the top is a search bar containing the text "[SQL] How to use CONCAT". Below the search bar is a dropdown menu showing various search filters. On the left side of the dropdown, there are filters: "[tag] search within a tag", "user:1234 search by author", "\"words here\" exact phrase", and "collective:\"Name\" collective content". On the right side, there are filters: "answers:0 unanswered questions", "score:3 posts with a 3+ score", "is:question type of post", and "isaccepted:yes search within status". At the bottom left of the dropdown is a blue button labeled "Ask a question". At the bottom right is a link labeled "Search help".

[tag] search within a tag	answers:0 unanswered questions
user:1234 search by author	score:3 posts with a 3+ score
"words here" exact phrase	is:question type of post
collective:"Name" collective content	isaccepted:yes search within status

Ask a question

Search help

To learn more about searching, read these [instructions on how to search](#)<sup>↗</sup>. For a quick guide on how different syntax structures can help you search more efficiently, go to this list of [search types and search syntax](#)<sup>↗</sup>.

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The following best practices can help set you up for success when asking questions on Stack Overflow:

- Keep it specific.
- Don't use Stack Overflow to ask questions with opinion-based answers. For example:
  - "Which SQL function can I use to add two numbers together?" is an appropriate question.
  - "Which SQL function is your favorite?" is not.
- Before asking a question, search the Stack Overflow website first—someone may have already asked it. This reduces the number of redundant questions on the site and saves you time.
- Write clear and concise questions in complete sentences. People are more likely to understand what you are asking and can give you more specific or helpful answers.

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To ask your own question, follow these steps:

1. Navigate to the Stack Overflow homepage. Select **Home** from the Navigation menu or the **Stack Overflow icon**.
2. Select **Ask Question**. **Note:** If you need additional help, Stack Overflow displays some helpful tips for writing a good question and provides external links for additional resources.
3. Enter a **title** for your question. Make sure it's specific! Then, select **Next**.
4. Enter the details of the problem you're experiencing. Introduce the problem and explain the circumstances in which you encountered it. Then, select **Next**.

5. Add a description about what you tried, what you expected to happen, and what actually happened. If applicable, add a minimal, reproducible example of the code you've written so that someone can try to reproduce the issue. To insert a section of code, select **Ctrl+K** on your keyboard. Then, enter your code. When you have completed your description, select **Next**.
6. Add up to five tags that help describe your question. These tags will help to make sure your question is answered by the right people. Then, select **Next**.
7. Stack Overflow provides you with the ability to review questions that have already been asked to see if your question is a duplicate. The Stack Overflow community discourages repeat questions, so make sure to check previous questions thoroughly. If you find your question in the results listed, select that question and the hyperlink will redirect you to that question's page in a new tab. You can also select **Discard draft** at the bottom of the form on the **Ask a public question** page.
8. If you don't see your question listed, check the box to confirm that none of the posts answer your question. Then, select **Review your question**.
9. Review all the fields where you entered information about your question. If you need to make any changes, you can do so in the provided text boxes. If everything is correct, select **Post your question**.

# Ask a public question

## Writing a good question

You're ready to [ask a programming-related question](#) and this form will help guide you through the process. Looking to ask a non-programming question? See [the topics here](#) to find a relevant site.

**Steps**

- Summarize your problem in a one-line title.
- Describe your problem in more detail.
- Describe what you tried and what you expected to happen.
- Add "tags" which help surface your question to members of the community.
- Review your question and post it to the site.

### Title

Be specific and imagine you're asking a question to another person.

Next

### What are the details of your problem?

Introduce the problem and expand on what you put in the title. Minimum 20 characters.

Rich text editor toolbar with icons for bold, italic, link, code, image, list, table, etc.

### What did you try and what were you expecting?

Describe what you tried, what you expected to happen, and what actually resulted. Minimum 20 characters.

Rich text editor toolbar with icons for bold, italic, link, code, image, list, table, etc.

### Writing a good title

Your title should summarize the problem. You might find that you have a better idea of your title after writing out the rest of the question.

**Note:** Stack Overflow is a public forum. Do not post any private information or confidential details.

1.

Question 1

## Reflection

You're a junior data analyst working for a local news station and your team uses BigQuery to analyze weather trends. The station's meteorologist has tasked you with understanding the relationship between wind speed and visibility in 2023. However, you're working with the newest data and it hasn't been cleaned yet. Missing values were incorrectly entered as zeroes, and you need to change them to null values before you look for trends. The code you're using to do this is returning an error message. But don't worry! You can ask for help on Stack Overflow.

- How would you write your question?



- Which tags would you use?

Now, write 2–3 sentences (40–60 words) in response to each of these questions. Enter your response in the text box below.

1 / 1 point

Title: BigQuery: Error Replacing Zeros with NULL Values Body: Data analyst using BigQuery for weather data (2023). Need to replace zeros (missing values) with NULL but encountering errors in my code (provide snippet). Searched online but no solution specific to my case. Help identifying the issue and correcting the code appreciated. Tags: bigquery, sql, null-values, data-cleaning



Correct

A meaningful question would concisely summarize your problem and results. For example, “How can I replace numerical values with NULL in SQL?” You could also include a section of your code and explain that you’re struggling with getting the correct output from your query. The tags you could use include “compare,” “if-statement,” “SQL,” “subset,” “return-value,” “setvalue,” or “valueerror.”

As you learn more about SQL in this course (and as you encounter R in the future), Stack Overflow will serve as a valuable resource and help you to succeed. Going forward, seek opportunities to ask questions and find solutions using Stack Overflow. This helpful tool allows you to further your learning and build your data analytics knowledge throughout your career.