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Thinkful: Career planning document

This document will collect and organize your work in the career planning lesson of the prep course. Complete each section after reviewing the relevant assignment in the course material.

Section 1: Explore the landscape

Before starting this bootcamp, my idea of data science was that it consisted mainly of solving problems by combining math, algorithms, and large sets of data. After reaching this point in the introductory course, I have a deeper understanding of what specifically I mean by "math, algorithms, and data," but also a better appreciation for some of the variety found in the field of data science. This has in turn helped me better visualize what I see myself doing in the future with data science.

If I were to sort myself using Harlan Harris' ID groupings, I could see myself as a data creative or data engineer, but the former is probably a little more accurate. I'm more interested in doing something with the results of research than I am in actually being a researcher, and I don't really have a business background. I feel like the role of a hacker or engineer is the role most oriented toward problem-solving, which is what interests me the most.

That said, even from just the intro course, I can recognize the importance of being able to be a data wrangler sometimes, or the need to visualize and communicate my solution to my peers, or perhaps even to laypeople. Like the video said, the breadth of your experience is as important as the depth. I know that that means I have a *lot* to learn though. But I do want to become an expert in the field. And I will.

Section 2: Job postings

Find five job postings you're very interested in and post them here. links; job postings have a way of disappearing after a Focus on one city. Don't just post the while.

Job 1

- o Company name: Riot Games (Los Angeles)
- o Title: Data Scientist
- o Why did you choose this job? Because it combines the professional skillset that I'm going to acquire (data science) with one of my greatest passions (gaming)
- o Link: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/data-scientist-at-riot-games-521474617

Job 2

- o Company name: Amazon (Irvine) (Though they have DC area jobs too)
- o Title: Data Scientist/Applied Scientist
- o Why did you choose this job? I would get to work on Alexa, and I want her to be more powerful because I want my Echo to be more useful

- o Link: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/data-scientist-applied-scientist-alexa-skills-store-at-amazon-505813671

Job 3

- o Company name: US Dept of Defense
- o Title: Operations Research Analyst
- o Why did you choose this job? It's a government job
- o Link: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/operations-research-analyst-data-scientist-at-united-states-department-of-defense-606998011

Job 4

- o Company name: Sevatec Inc
- o Title: Data Scientist
- o Why did you choose this job? It's an entry level job close to where I live
- o Link: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/data-visualization-data-scientist-junior-at-sevatec-inc-590793116

Job 5

- o Company name: Improbable
- o Title: Data Scientist
- o Why did you choose this job? The purpose of the company is interesting to me and it's close to my current residence
- o Link: https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/data-scientist-at-improbable-550930403

Section 3: Your company hitlist

Find five dream companies (whether or not they're hiring data scientists right now) and add them to this hit list. Focus on the same city you did for job postings. Include a sentence about why you added each company.

Company 1

- o Company name: Blizzard Entertainment
- o Why did you choose this company? Because I'm very passionate about a couple of their products and would love to work in an environment like theirs and help improve those products

Company 2

- o Company name: Google
- o Why did you choose this company? The work environment is very appealing to me

Company 3

- o Company name: Microsoft
- o Why did you choose this company? Because they're highly rated as a good place to work

Company 4
- o Company name: Nvidia
- o Why did you choose this company? They do research on a lot of interesting new ideas (like self driving cars for example) and have deep ties with the gaming industry

Company 5
- o Company name: Discord
- o Why did you choose this company? I've been using this company's product since it was in beta, I would be happy to contribute to it

Section 4: Find your people

Add the data science related events in your area and find LinkedIn profiles for local data scientists working at the kind of job you want.

Local data science events:

- https://www.meetup.com/NOVA-Data-Science/
- https://www.meetup.com/full-stack-data-science/
- https://www.meetup.com/NOVA-Python/

Local data scientist from a company on your hit list:

- https://www.linkedin.com/in/tedmalaska/

First or second degree connection in the industry:

- https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-graham-b9573091/

Section 5: Write your own story

Make the work you've done so far concrete.

1. My ideal job is designing neural networks or other machine learning entities capable of recognizing patterns and solving problems that humans can't. It sometimes borderlines research because at its core it consists of trying to understand heretofore unintelligible phenomena by using the tools of machine learning and statistics.

2. There are things that are too difficult for humans to understand. For example, humans aren't great at recognizing patterns, or analyzing large amounts of data. I use computers to help us understand those things.

3. I work with data. This includes a background in statistics and programming, but my passion in the field of data science is machine learning. I specialize in finding novel solutions to complex problems. I have experience working with the tools found in Python modules such as pandas or scipy, as well as SQL.