

Perusall Quick-Start Guide

January 2021

Contents

What is Perusall?	5
Why are we using Perusall?	5
How to use Perusall?	7
0.1 My courses	7
0.2 Get started	8
0.3 Assignments	8
0.4 Layout	10
0.5 Ask a question	11
0.6 Answer a question	12
Zoom-based Q&A session	15

What is Perusall?

Perusal is a browser-based software platform for interactive learning. Students help each other learn by collectively annotating readings in threads, responding to each other's comments, and interacting. Perusall can bring the interactivity of a small seminar to a larger course.



Why are we using Perusall?

Some of our Data Science Workshops are being taught using a “flipped classroom” model — this is where lecture-based material is delivered online, asynchronously, so that it can be digested at your own pace, which provides more time for Q&A discussion during in-class time.

Prior to our Zoom-based one-hour Q&A session, there will be a **two week self-study period** during which you can work through the workshop materials at your own pace. We are using Persuall as a means to facilitate greater engagement with the workshop materials during this self-study period. With Perusall, you will be able to post questions and comments about parts of the materials you do not understand or problems you encounter. Instructors can answer your questions and comments, but you will also have the opportunity to reply

to questions and comments from other participants. In this way, Perusall facilitates peer-to-peer and peer-to-instructor learning.

Your successful completion of the workshop will be based on making a contribution, via questions and comments, during this self-study period.

How to use Perusall?

You should have received an email asking you to create an account at <https://perusall.com/>. You should also have received a **course code** via email. If you have not, please contact your workshop administrator. Once your Perusall account is created, enter the course code and you will be able to view the course materials.

During the two week self-study period, you can highlight sections of the workshop materials you wish to ask questions about, add comments, as well as respond to questions and comments from other participants. The window for submitting questions will close 24 hours prior to the Zoom Q&A session.

0.1 My courses

Once you have logged into Perusall and entered your course code, you should see the name of the workshop you have registered for listed under **My courses** (highlighted in red in the image below).

The screenshot shows the Perusall mobile application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Perusall logo, a Help icon, and a user profile icon labeled 'TS'. Below the navigation bar, there are three main action buttons: 'Enroll in course' (with a magnifying glass icon), 'Create study group' (with a speech bubble icon), and 'My purchases' (with a book icon). The 'My courses' section is titled 'My courses' and contains a list of workshops. One workshop, 'Data Science Workshops', is highlighted with a pink background and shows the start date as January 11, 2021, and the end date as February 1, 2021. To the right of the list, there is a 'Sort by:' dropdown menu set to 'Name, A-Z'. Below the main list, there is a section titled 'My archived courses' with a note stating 'You do not yet have any archived courses. Courses are archived automatically when their end date has passed.'

Click on the name of the workshop to proceed.

0.2 Get started

You will now enter the Course home page, under the `Get started` tab. This page provides some basic information about Perusall. At the top of the page, there are two other tabs — `Library` and `Assignments`. Click on the latter (highlighted in red in the image below).

The screenshot shows the Perusall course home page for 'Data Science Workshops'. The left sidebar contains links for 'My Courses', 'Course home', 'My scores', 'Notifications', 'Notes', 'Add to my calendar', and 'Unenroll from course'. Below these are sections for 'Readings', 'Assignments', 'Chats', 'Groups', 'One-on-One', and 'Hashtags'. The 'Assignments' section is currently selected. The main content area has three tabs: 'Get started' (blue), 'Library' (grey), and 'Assignments' (red). The 'Assignments' tab is highlighted with a red box. The text in the main content area discusses how Perusall helps users learn faster by collaboratively annotating readings and communicating with classmates.

0.3 Assignments

You will now enter the `Assignments` page. For your workshop, there will be only one assignment. To start working on the assignment, click on the `Work on assignment` button (highlighted in red in the image below).

Perusall® > Data Science Workshops > Assignments

Data Science W... X

Get started Library Assignments

My Courses Course home My scores Notifications Notes Add to my calendar Unenroll from course

Readings Library Data_Science_Workshops

Assignments Feb 1: R Intro

Chats Groups One-on-One Hashtags

Announcements General discussion

#grades #lecture

Due Mon Feb 1, 2021 12:00 pm EST

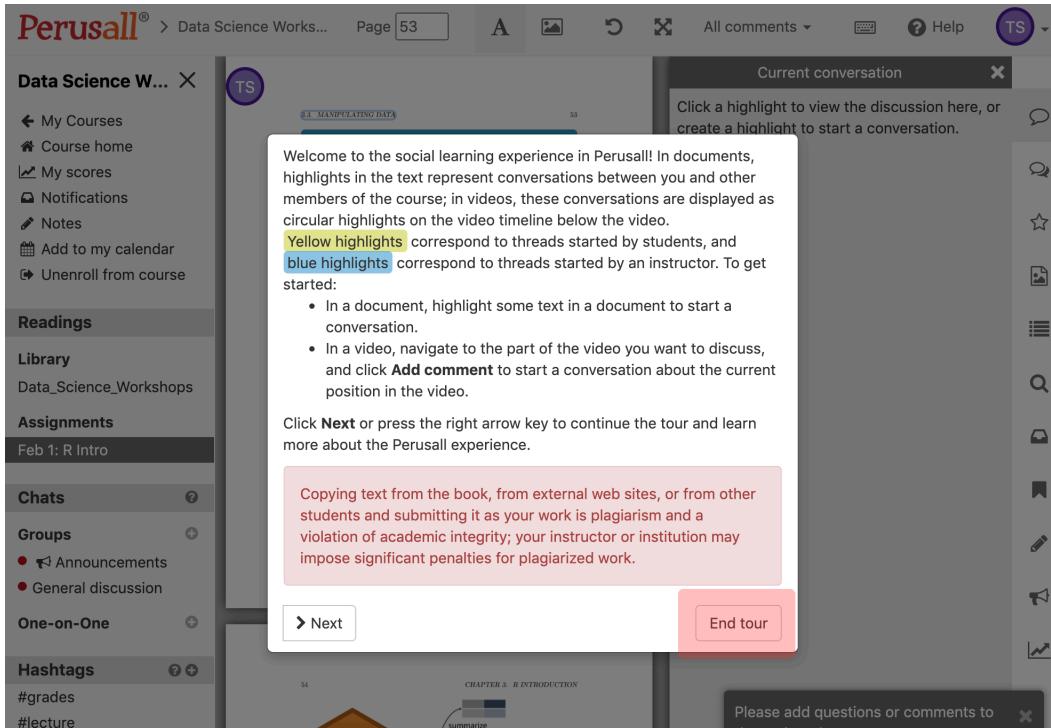
Data_Science_Workshops
R Intro

Please add questions or comments to the assigned page ranges

Assignment not yet opened.

Work on assignment →

You will enter a new page and be presented with a popup window of instructions. Once you've read the instructions, click **End tour** in the bottom right of the popup (highlighted in red in the image below).



0.4 Layout

You will now enter a new page where the main screen is divided into a left and right panel. On the left, you can view the workshop materials as a pdf file. You can scroll through the materials as you work on them. On the right, you will see a panel called **Current conversation**, which should be blank.

The screenshot shows the Perusall platform interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with navigation links like 'My Courses', 'Course home', 'My scores', 'Notifications', 'Notes', 'Add to my calendar', and 'Unenroll from course'. Below that are sections for 'Readings' (Library, Data_Science_Workshops), 'Assignments' (Feb 1: R Intro), 'Chats' (Groups: Announcements, General discussion; One-on-One), and 'Hashtags' (#grades, #lecture). The main content area displays a slide titled 'CHAPTER 3. R INTRODUCTION' with a 'dplyr' logo and a flowchart illustrating data manipulation operations: filter, select, summarize, mutate, and arrange. Below the slide is a code snippet:

```

3.3.1 Filter, select, & arrange
One way to find the year in which your name was the most popular is to filter out just the
rows corresponding to your name, and then arrange (arr) by Count.
To demonstrate these techniques we'll try to determine whether "Alex" or "Mark" was
more popular in 1992. We start by filtering the data so that we keep only rows where Year
is equal to 1992.
# Load in the baby names data (if you haven't already)
baby_names <- read_csv("babynames.csv")

# Filter data, keeping "Alex" and "Mark" in year 1992, record in baby_names_alexmark
# Use logical operators to specify the filtering condition
baby_names_alexmark <- filter(baby_names,
  Year == 1992 & (Name == "Alex" | Name == "Mark"))

print(baby_names_alexmark) # explicit printing

```

The right side features a 'Current conversation' panel with a message: 'Click a highlight to view the discussion here, or create a highlight to start a conversation.' At the bottom of this panel is a button: 'Please add questions or comments to the assigned page ranges.'

You're now ready to start! You can work through the materials at your own pace.

0.5 Ask a question

As you work through the materials, you may have questions or comments about the content. You can ask a question or make a comment by simply highlighting the part of the text that you'd like to refer to (see highlighted code chunk in left side panel below). Once the text is highlighted, a text window opens in the right side **Current conversation** panel (highlighted in red in the image below). You can type your question here. Your question could be in plain English, or include code.

The screenshot shows a Perusall interface. On the left, the 'Data Science W...' workshop page is visible, featuring a sidebar with course navigation (My Courses, Course home, My scores, Notifications, Notes, Add to my calendar, Unenroll from course), a 'Readings' section (Library, Data_Science_Workshops), and a 'Assignments' section (Feb 1: R Intro). The main content area displays a slide titled 'CHAPTER 3. R INTRODUCTION' with a 'dplyr' logo and a flowchart illustrating data manipulation functions: summarize, mutate, select, filter. Below the slide is a code chunk for R:

```
# One way to find the year in which your name was the most popular is to filter out just the rows corresponding to your name, and then arrange (sort) by Count.
# To demonstrate these techniques we'll try to determine whether "Alex" or "Mark" was more popular in 1992. We start by filtering the data so that we keep only rows where Year is equal to 1992. Then we sort it based on Name.
# Load the baby names data if you haven't already
baby_names <- read.csv("babynames.csv")

# Filter data, keeping "Alex" and "Mark" in year 1992, record in baby_names_alexmark
# Use logical operators to specify the filtering condition
baby_names_alexmark <- filter(baby_names,
  Year == 1992 & Name %in% c("Name", "Mark"))

print(baby_names_alexmark) # explicit printing
```

A red arrow points from the question in the conversation window to the code chunk.

Current conversation

TS Why do we use two equals signs in this code chunk?

Not yet submitted: press Enter to submit.

Please add questions or comments to this slide.

Once you have finished typing your question press enter/return. Your question will now be visible to the instructor and other workshop participants. Don't be shy — **there are no stupid questions!!!**

0.6 Answer a question

If you see a comment or question that you can help with, please try to answer it yourself! There will be a text window under the most recent part of the conversation thread, which you can write your reply in (highlighted in red in the image below). This is a great way to learn, since we often learn best by teaching others. Feel free to ask as many additional questions as you want within the same conversation thread.

The above process repeats itself whenever you reach part of the materials you have a question about: **highlight text -> type question**.

Zoom-based Q&A session

After the two-week self-study period, we will host a one-hour live Q&A session via Zoom. No new material will be presented during this session – rather, this will be an additional opportunity to ask questions and get feedback about the materials. The instructor will use the questions submitted on Perusall as a starting point for discussion and possibly for short code demonstrations illustrating conceptual or syntactical stumbling blocks.

Zoom etiquette: Please be punctual. All participants will initially be entered into a Zoom waiting room and the presenter will admit them to the session at the designated start time. Any participants arriving in the wait room more than 5 mins past the listed start time of the session will not be admitted.