Using Data.gov

1. Start by reviewing the data.gov home page. What is included?

* The amount of data sets available
* Next you have the search box
* 4 different categories to view the data by most viewed, recently added, by organization, or geospatial.
* You also have the mission statement of the purpose of this website.
* How long has the website operated since it was first launched. Option to view in a timeline.
* You can also view key metrics by organization in a bar graph as well as dataset age and finally a pie chart visualizing distribution of dataset.
* Option to click on other resources and check out other pages for specific topics/ action plans/ action process.
* Very bottom you have website policies, the about section, and their social media pages.   
  2. Go to Most Viewed Datasets. How many datasets are listed?
* 300.420 datasets found- ordered by most popular  
  3. Find the “Topic Category” for Human Health. Review the range of data sources available for this topic. Why do you think these were tagged with the Human Health category?
* These topics affect the human population in one way or another environmentally or agriculturally.   
  4. Go to the Food Price Outlook. Review the catalog page for this dataset. How can you navigate to additional datasets from the USDA?
* By clicking on the left panel picture/logo of USDA.
* Will bring up 2.6K + data sources from the USDA.  
  5. Go back to the data.gov home page. This time, click on Datasets by  
  Organization.
* Done.   
  6. Try searching for your city, county, and state. What organizations are  
  returned?
* City of Chicago (organization when I search for the city, I’m in)
* Cook County of Illinois (organization when I search for the state)
* Lake County (organization when I search for the state)
* 7. Search for USDA, and click into the result.
* Done.   
  8. Within the USDA datasets, search for food composition.
* Done.  
  9. Notice that the top three results are all datasets concerning nutrition  
  information. Try searching the USDA page for nutrition. How does that  
  affect your results?
* The datasets go from 13 results to 215 datasets for nutrition.

a) One of the tricky things about working with data is that sometimes the terminology used by a data source is not obvious. You may need to dig around and be creative to find what you’re looking for.

* Specific keywords matter

10. Go back to the results for food composition and click on Food Data  
Central. Review the catalog page for this data source, then click on the  
button for Visit Page.

Done.   
11. Take some time to explore the FoodData Central website.  
a) Try searching for butter, or any of your favorite foods. What kind of  
results do you get? What happens when you click on a result?

* 5 tabs of data categories for butter.
* When I click on the result it takes me to another page containing 3 tabs for components, individual samples, and other information.
* The first tab gives me the components of Almond butter creamy including the min, median, max of each component.

b) Go back to the home page. Find Foundation Foods and click on  
Downloads. What kind of data can you find on this page? How big are  
these files? Where can you find more information on the data types  
available?

- You can find the formats the data files can be downloaded as

- The latest downloads including Historical downloads/ supporting data and releases

-Files are zipped or unzipped so they are huge files that are compressed but access the original format with unzipped files.

-You can find more information on the data types at the API guide on SwaggerHub.