



ENGW 1110 Introduction to First Year Writing
Kelly Garneau
Data Ethics and Data Collection

About

This handout provides key words and definitions about data ethics and data collection, specifically on the collection process using Google Sheets.

Key Words and Vocabulary

- **Data Ethics:** Questions how data is collected, by whom, from whom, and for what purpose to think critically about impact (potentially harming or benefiting others).
- **Big Data:** Collects large information at rapid speeds to quickly categorize behaviors and patterns, adjusting categories as further data is collected and analyzed.
- **Google Sheets:** Google's free cloud spreadsheet creator. You will use Google Sheets to keep track of your writing practices.
 - **Rows:** the vertical numbers
 - **Columns:** the horizontal letters
 - **Cells:** the individual rectangular box that has a unique ID based on placement (column + row)
- **Charts:** visualizations that can be created about your data
- **Functions:** mathematical functions that can be used on numerical data
- **Data Validation:** the input specifications for particular cells (input only dates, only numbers, or select from a list)
- **Conditional Formatting:** filter for data that lets you highlight or mark information (highlight blank vs not blank cells)

Questions to Consider

- How do your column choices impact how you view your writing patterns?
- Which information will you choose to omit or highlight, both as you're collecting data and then as you're reflecting on that data?
- How do you think about your audience and your purpose while you're writing? How can you highlight this through your data collection?

Helpful Resources

- DIY Guide to Feminist Cybersecurity: <https://hackblossom.org/cybersecurity/>
- Google Sheets Tutorial – Designed for Beginners: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3-MDhnZzPU>

Find these slides and more at <http://bit.ly/2KsBbv0>

Questions? Contact us!

Cara Marta Messina, messina.c@husky.neu.edu
Laura Johnson, johnson.lau@husky.neu.edu