

Problem-solving and effective questioning

✔ **Video:** Introduction to problem-solving and effective questioning
3 min

📖 **Reading:** Course syllabus
20 min

📖 **Reading:** Learning Log: Consider what data means to you
20 min

💬 **Discussion Prompt:** Meet and greet
10 min

🔧 **Ungraded Plugin:** Refresher: Your data analytics certificate roadmap
10 min

📖 **Reading:** Deciding if you should take the speed track
20 min

📖 **Practice Quiz:** Optional: Familiar with data analytics? Take our diagnostic quiz
10 questions

📖 **Reading:** Optional: Your diagnostic quiz score and what it means
10 min

Take action with data

Solve problems with data

Craft effective questions

Weekly challenge 1

Learning Log: Consider what data means to you



Overview

This course is all about asking good questions and planning out data analysis projects. You have already started learning about how data can be used to answer questions. Now, you'll complete an entry in your learning log to track your thinking and reflections about what data means to you and how it relates to problem-solving. By the time you complete this activity, you will have a stronger understanding of data and the problem-solving process. This will be important as you learn to ask questions you can answer with data analysis — and you will encounter these questions again later in this course.

Data and problem-solving

Pause for a moment and think about the word “data.” What does it mean to you?

Although it's clear that data is a major part of a data analyst's job, it's only part of the big picture. The other part is problem solving. Being a successful data analyst means understanding that each problem is unique and working methodically to solve that problem with data.

By definition, most new problems data analysts face start in unknown territory. It's up to the data analyst and their problem solving skills to think strategically, ask good questions, and use data to come up with solutions to these problems.

You'll reflect on some of these questions in your learning log template which is linked below.

Access your learning log

To use the learning log for this course item, click the link below and select “Use Template.”

Link to learning log template: [Consider what data means to you](#) ↗

OR

If you don't have a Google account, you can download the template directly from the attachment below.



Learning Log Template_ Consider what data means to you
DOCX File

Reflection

In your learning log template, write 3-5 sentences (60-100 words) reflecting on what data means to you. Here are some questions to help you get started:

- How would you describe “data” to someone who is unfamiliar with the word?
- What does data represent?
- What is data used for?
- Where does data come from?
- How do you get data?
- How do you feel about data?

Then write 2-3 sentences (40-60 words) reflecting on the problem-solving process by answering each of the questions below:

- When you come across a problem and you aren't sure of the answer or solution, what do you do?
- How do you identify new and interesting problems to begin with? Is there a process you use to identify problems you want to solve?

When you've finished your entry in the learning log template, make sure to save the document so your response is somewhere accessible. This will help you continue applying data analysis to your everyday life. You will also be able to track your progress and growth as a data analyst.

Mark as completed

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