**Guided Exercise: Questioning Data with Participant-Selected Datasets**

**Objective:** This guided exercise encourages participants to develop critical thinking skills for evaluating data of their choice. Participants will practice asking relevant questions to assess the quality, validity, and implications of self-selected data.

**Materials Needed:**

* Access to a dataset or the ability for participants to select their own data sources (e.g., websites, spreadsheets, reports).
* Whiteboard or flip chart (optional).
* Markers and pens.

**Duration:** Approximately 45 minutes.

**Instructions:**

1. **Introduction (5 minutes):**
   * Start by emphasizing the importance of questioning data in the context of data literacy and data-driven decision-making.
   * Explain that this exercise allows participants to select their own datasets for evaluation.
   * Outline the goals: to develop the skill of asking relevant questions when encountering data.
2. **Dataset Selection (10 minutes):**
   * Instruct participants to select their own datasets from available sources. They can choose datasets from the internet, spreadsheets, reports, or any other data sources.
   * Encourage participants to select datasets that interest them or relate to their field of expertise or personal experiences.
   * Participants should download or access their chosen datasets and be ready to review them.
3. **Individual Questioning (15 minutes):**
   * Ask participants to individually review their selected datasets for a few minutes.
   * Encourage them to jot down any questions that come to mind while examining the data.
   * Participants should focus on aspects such as data sources, completeness, relevance, and potential biases.
4. **Small Group Discussion (10 minutes):**
   * Divide participants into small groups (2-4 participants per group).
   * Within each group, ask participants to share the questions they generated while reviewing their self-selected datasets.
   * Participants should discuss and refine each other's questions based on their chosen datasets.
   * Emphasize the importance of constructive and critical discussions.
5. **Group Presentation (10 minutes):**
   * Invite each small group to present a selection of their most thought-provoking questions related to their self-selected datasets to the larger group.
   * As each group presents, encourage a brief discussion and reflection on the questions raised.
   * Highlight the diversity of questions and the significance of considering multiple perspectives when evaluating data.
6. **Wrap-up (5 minutes):**
   * Conclude the exercise by summarizing the key takeaways.
   * Reinforce the idea that questioning data is an essential practice in data literacy, and it is valuable when working with self-selected datasets.
   * Encourage participants to apply the skills they have developed in their future data analysis efforts.

**Optional Extension:**

* Participants can continue to explore and analyze their self-selected datasets as an extended exercise, allowing them to practice applying the skills they have acquired.

**Note:** This guided exercise empowers participants to engage with data that personally interests them, making it highly engaging and relevant to their individual experiences and needs.