**Learning Log: Consider what data means to you**

**Instructions**You can use this document as a template for the learning log activity: Consider how data analysts approach tasks. Type your answers in this document, and save it on your computer or Google Drive.

We recommend that you save every learning log in one folder and include a date in the file name to help you stay organized. Important information like course number, title, and activity name are already included. After you finish your learning log entry, you can come back and reread your responses later to understand how your opinions on different topics may have changed throughout the courses.

To review detailed instructions on how to complete this activity, please return to Coursera: [Learning Log: Consider what data means to you](https://www.coursera.org/learn/ask-questions-make-decisions/supplement/8LO5m/learning-log-consider-what-data-means-to-you).

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| **Date:** <enter date> | **Course/topic:** Course 2: Ask Questions to Make Data-Driven Decisions |
| **Learning Log:** Consider what data means to you |
| **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. |
| **Reflection:** | Write 3-5 sentences (60-100 words) reflecting on what data means to you. Then write 2-3 sentences (40-60 words) reflecting on the problem-solving process by answering each of the questions below: |
| **Questions and responses:** | * What does data mean to you?   *Data is a collection of facts and information that allow us to look for insights and find out more about the story behind the data.*   * When you come across a problem and you aren’t sure of the answer or solution, what do you do?   *Ask questions, ask fellow colleagues for help, research online on forums, look for tutorials, dig deeper after educating myself and asking for help*   * How do you identify new and interesting problems to begin with? Is there a process you use to identify problems you want to solve?   *Look at current trends and think about what problems could come from them. For example, Blockchain technology could be something that is current and new, and we can identify what problems could arise from brainstorming with others, discussion forums, general concerns.* |