



# Influencing With Data

## Presented by KPMG x General Assembly

# WELCOME TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We empower people to do work they love through education in technology, business, data, and design.

—  
Thanks to our partner



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## Today's Instructor



**James Orton**

Data Science Consultant,  
Distil Data

“

**GA was founded on the principle of empowering people to pursue the work they love. Since we opened our first campus in 2011, we have had the privilege of working with students, governments, and the world's largest companies to create opportunities to radically transform careers and economic prospects.**

Jake Schwartz  
Co-Founder and CEO  
General Assembly



# General Assembly at a glance

- **2019 Fast Company's** 10 Most Innovative in Education
- **2018** GA joins **The Adecco Group** in Transforming the World of Work
- **100,000+** global alumni
- **5,000** expert instructors
- **500+** enterprise clients
- **22** campuses in **9** states and **7** countries
- **7,000+** hiring partners
- **50,000+** assessment-takers
- **2** Standards Boards
- **50+** NPS
- **94.1%** of full-time students who find jobs within **180** days of graduation\*



**100,000+**

students have taken full- and part-time courses at General Assembly.



**94.1%**

of students who participated in our Career Services program got a job in their field of study within 180 days of graduating.





# What we do



## Educating Individuals

- Build vital skills at all professional levels
- Collaborate and connect with an elite network
- Change and boost your career and portfolio

## Hiring Opportunities



We are bridging the gap between job seekers and companies needing talent with relevant skills.



## Educating Companies

- Partnerships with Fortune 1000 companies
- Customized staff training to advance employees
- Dedicated hiring pipeline to acquire GA alumni

# What we do

**UX Design  
Immersive**

**10 WEEKS  
FULL TIME**

**Software  
Engineering  
Immersive**

**12 WEEKS  
FULL TIME**

**Data Science  
Immersive**

**12 WEEKS  
FULL TIME**

# Coming up on Campus

Free Class:  
Get Started  
With Python



SQL for Beginners



Intro to Data Science  
With Python: Beginner's  
Bootcamp



Data Analytics  
Part-Time



**Monday 25 November**

6-7.30pm

Free class

**Wednesday 20 November**

6.30-8.30pm

Ticketed

**Wednesday 20 November**

10am - 3pm

Ticketed

**3 December - 20 February**

10 Weeks

Tuesday + Thursday

6.30-8.30pm





# To learn more, visit [ga.co](https://ga.co)

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 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



@melbourne\_ga



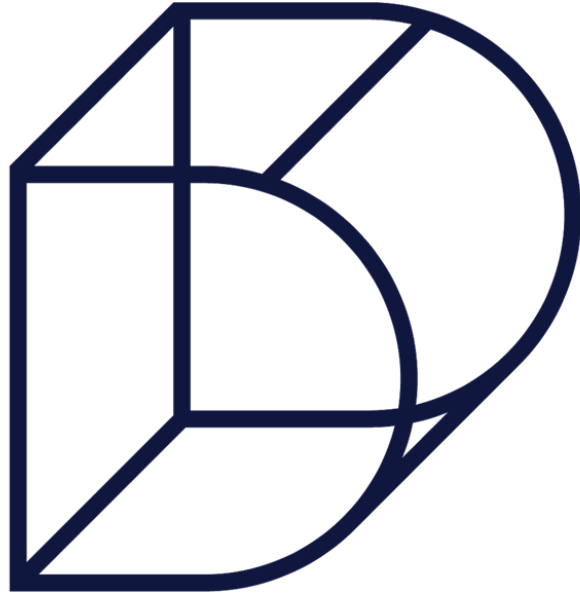
@MelbourneGA



@MelbourneGA



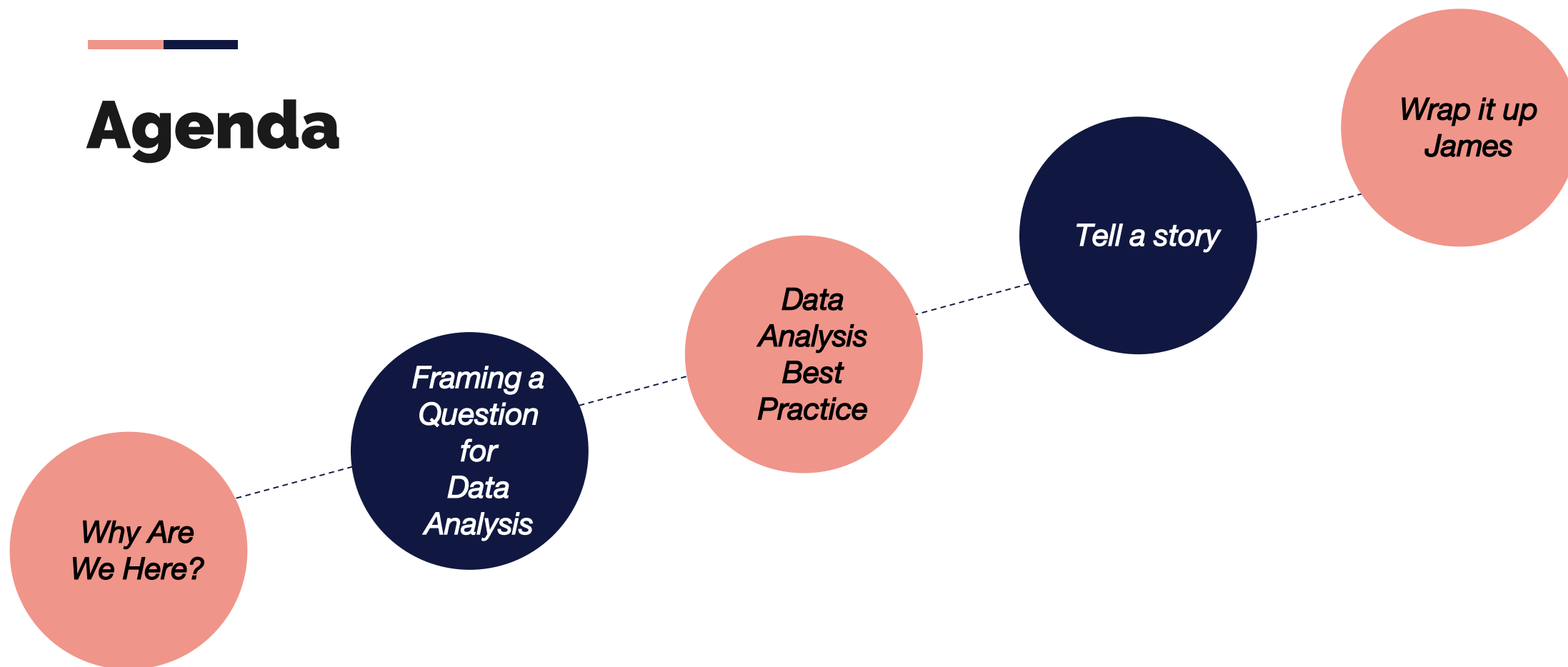
ga-melbourne



**Distil Data**



# Agenda





Distil Data

# Why Are We Here?

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# Learning Objectives



Understand why effective data analysis always starts with a question

Best practice tips for data collection and analysis

How to tell a story your audience actually wants to hear





# Why Are We Here?

**“In God we trust, all others bring data.”**

**- W. Edwards Deming**



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# Why Are We Here?

DATA ALLOWS US TO MAKE  
MORE **EFFECTIVE DECISIONS**



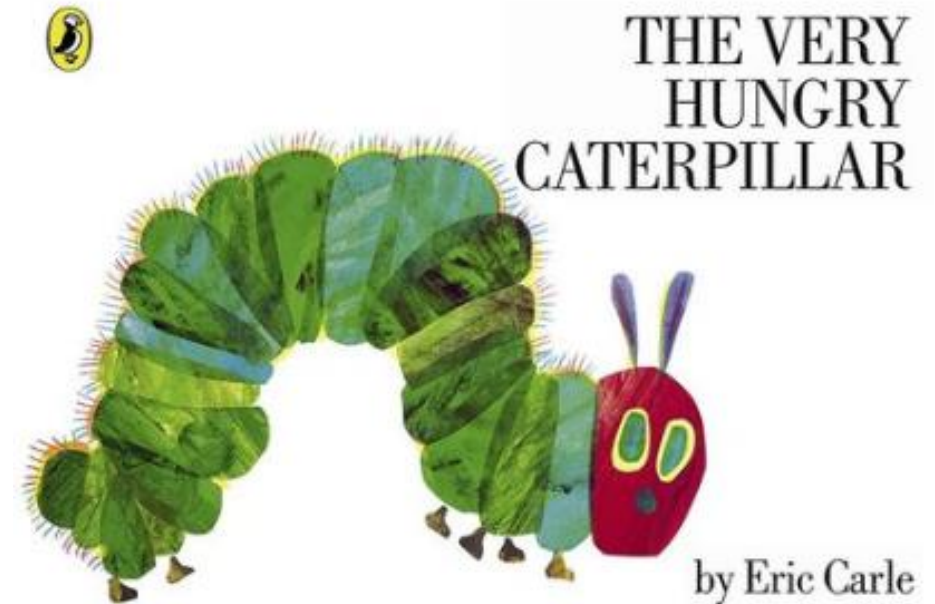


# Why Are We Here?



# Why Are We Here?

DATA IS USELESS UNLESS  
EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATED





# Why Are We Here?





# Framing A Question For Data Analysis

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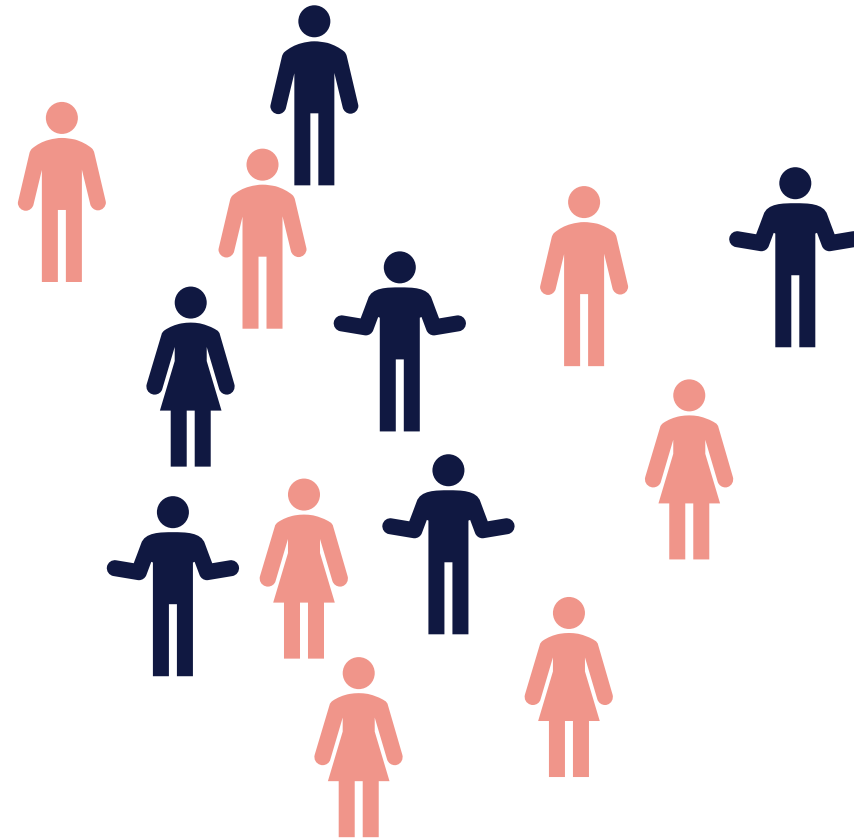
# Where are we?





Good stakeholder management

Create a shared  
understanding or the  
problem





# The Five Whys Technique

Well known by six sigma practitioners and parents of toddlers alike.

Find the root cause of a problem and identify the full picture.





# Know your data

Conduct a basic data audit

Have some understanding of what is possible

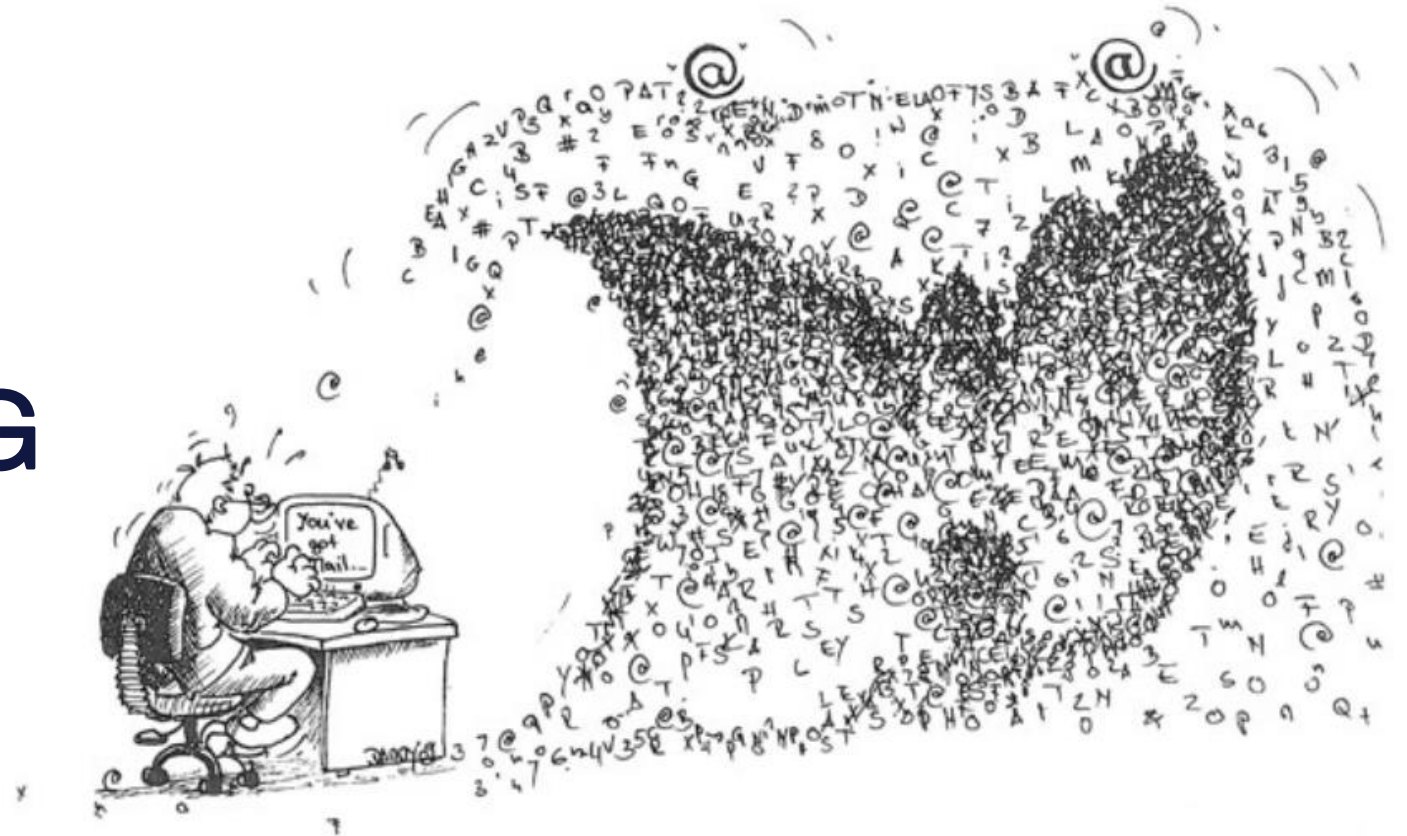






Don't get lost in data

**KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE LOOKING  
FOR.**





## Avoid: “So what?”

Are your questions actionable? And what is the business benefit?

↓  
Understand upfront how this project will benefit the business

↓  
Estimate Benefit in dollar terms

↓  
Estimate the complexity

↓  
Prioritise projects by those with the greatest impact

|            | Impact | Complexity | Priority |
|------------|--------|------------|----------|
| Question 1 | \$\$\$ | !!         | 2        |
| Question 2 | \$     | !!!        | 3        |
| Question 3 | \$\$   | !          | 1        |



An approximate answer to the right question is worth a good deal more than an exact answer to an approximate problem.

- John Tukey





## DIG DEEPER

Ask questions to define the objective of the analysis first and set yourself up for actionable decisions later.

## FOCUS

Focus your energy and time on the things that matter most to your team and business.

## KNOW YOUR VARIABLES

Consider what variables you can explore that might lead to actionable recommendations.

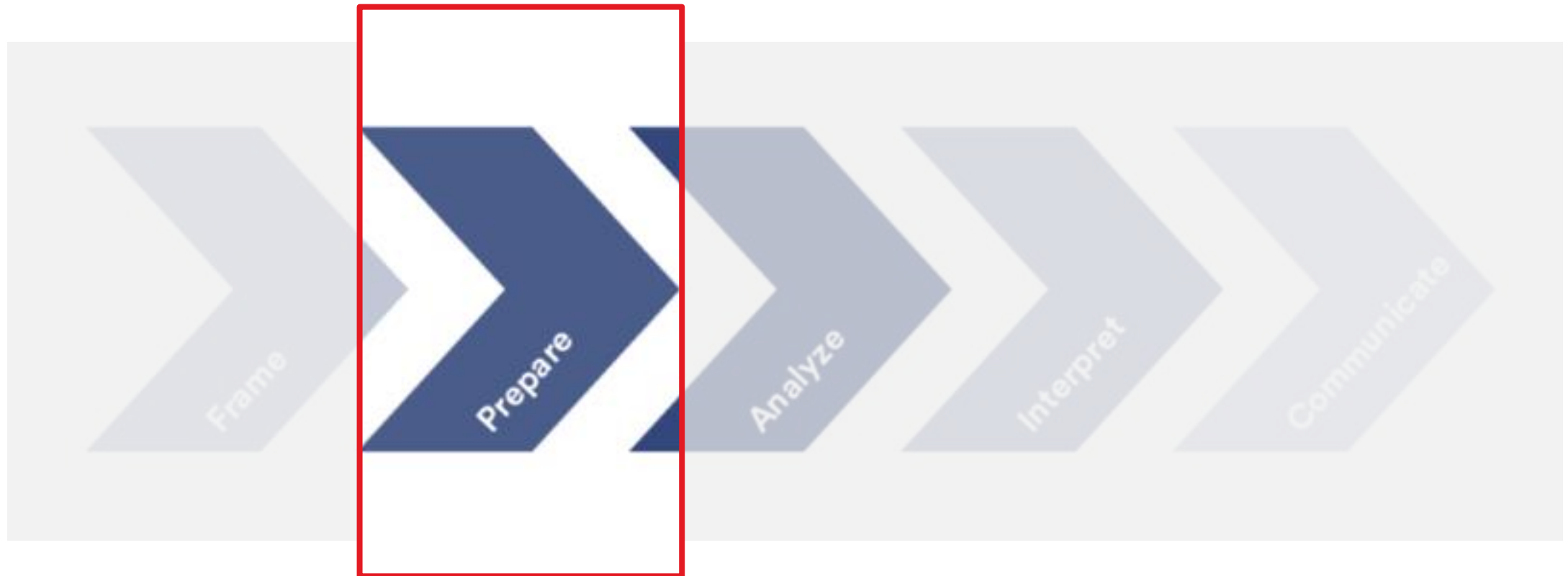
# Where Does Your Data Come From?

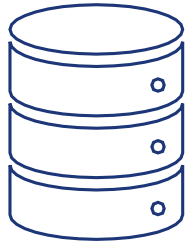
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# Where are we?





## 1ST PARTY DATA

You collect it, you own it.



## 2ND PARTY DATA

Data trade between non-competitive partners.



## 3RD PARTY DATA

Sold by data suppliers  
Publicly available data  
Not exclusive



The best insights more often  
come from new data rather  
than fancy methods.

- James Orton





Distil Data

# Why we clean data

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# What That Means For Data Quality

Poor data quality =  
poor data analysis

Confidence in any conclusion is quickly eroded where there are data quality issues.





# Cleaning data

- Data recorded inaccurately
- Blank fields
- Inconsistent information
- Bad data not investigated, deleted, or miscategorized
- Fields not defined clearly
- Duplicate information





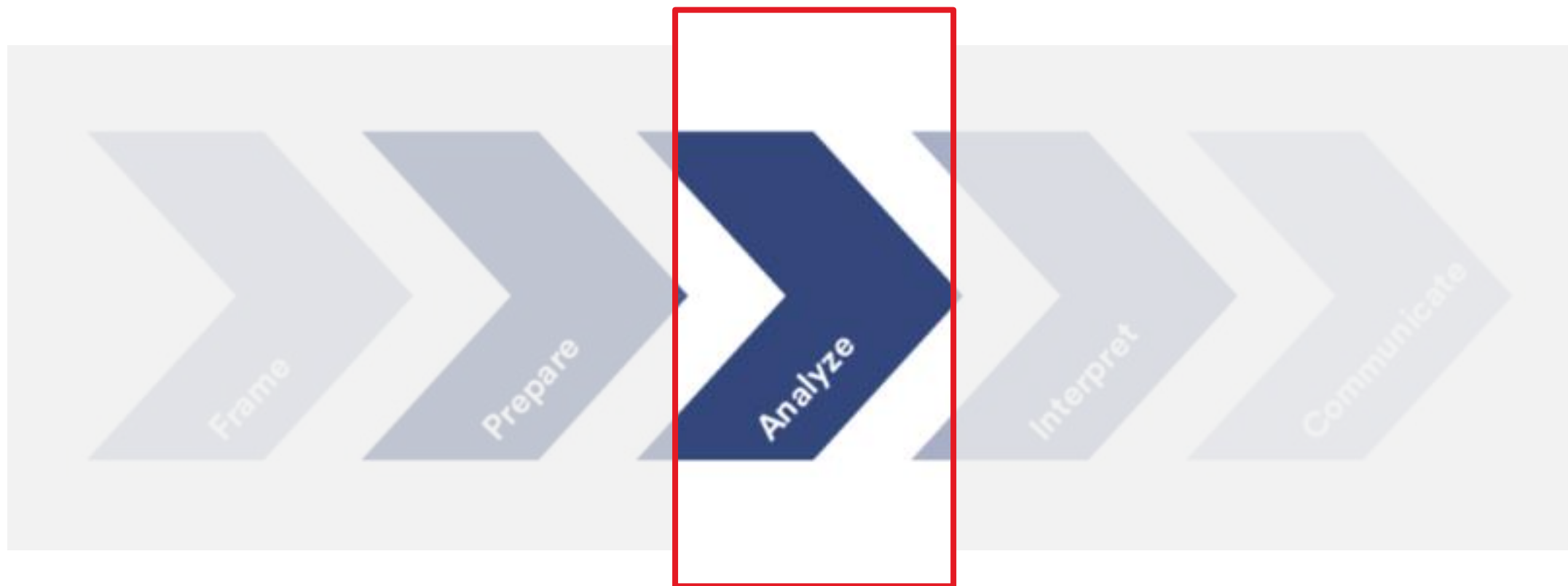
Distil Data

# Types of data analysis

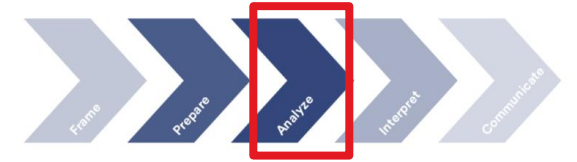
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# Where are we?







# What analysis should we do?

Machine Learning

Prescriptive Analytics

Descriptive Analytics

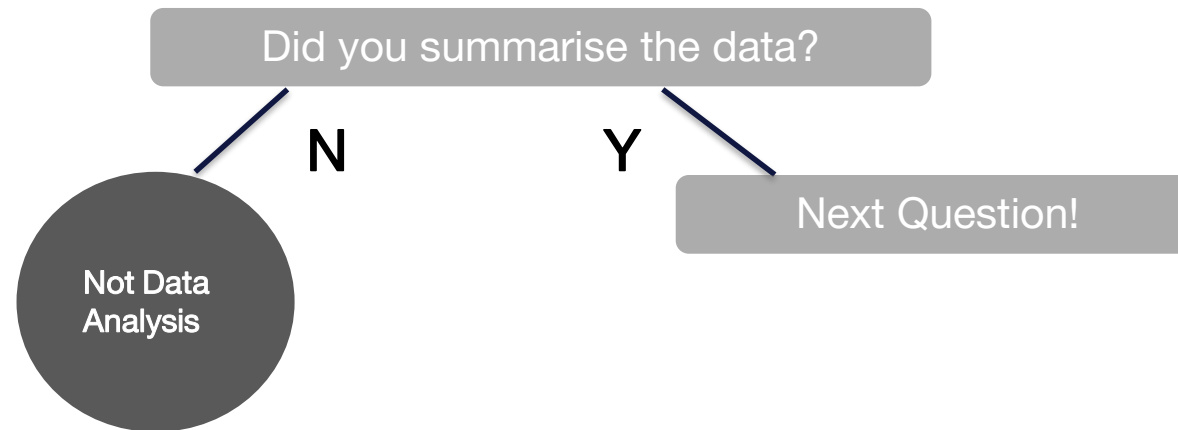
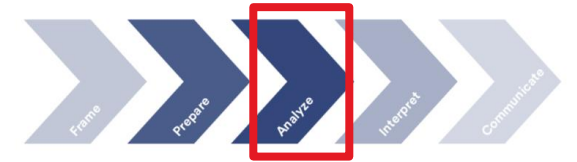
Causal Analysis

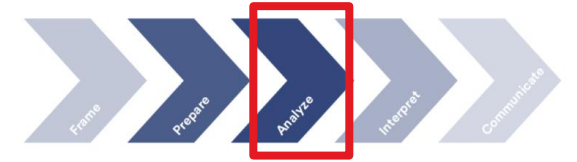
Predictive Analytics

Deep Learning

Artificial Intelligence

Unsupervised Learning





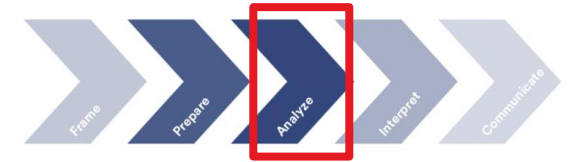
Did you quantify whether your finding are likely to hold for new data?

N

Exploratory

Y

Next Question!



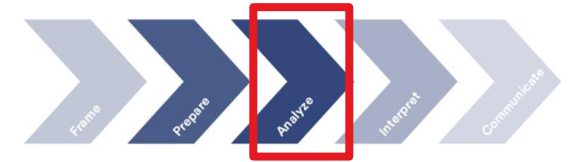
Are you interested in how changing one measurement affects another?

N

Next Question!

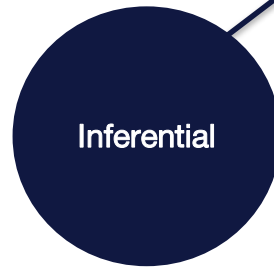
Y

Causal

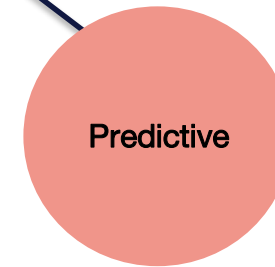


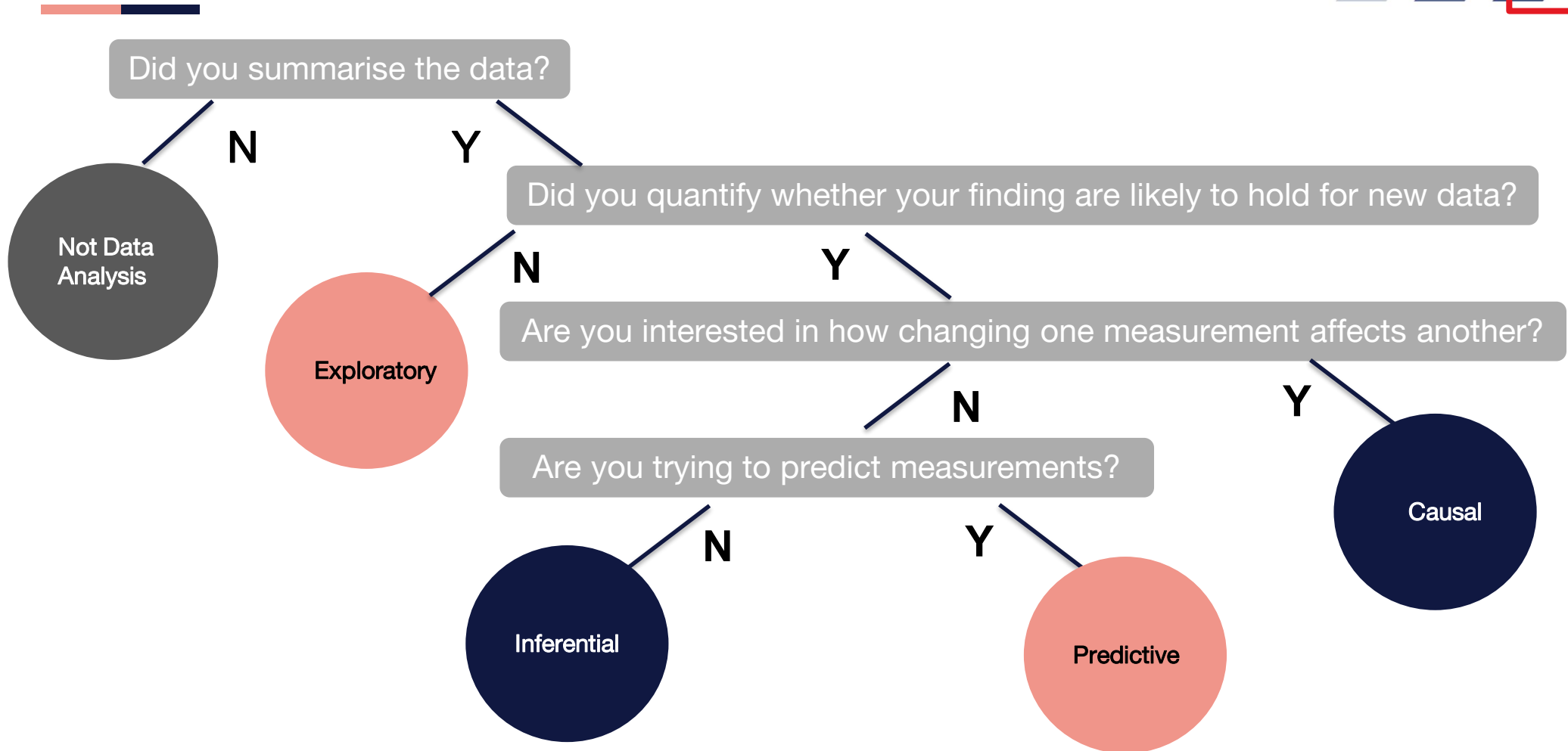
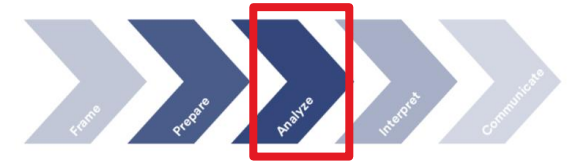
Are you trying to predict measurements?

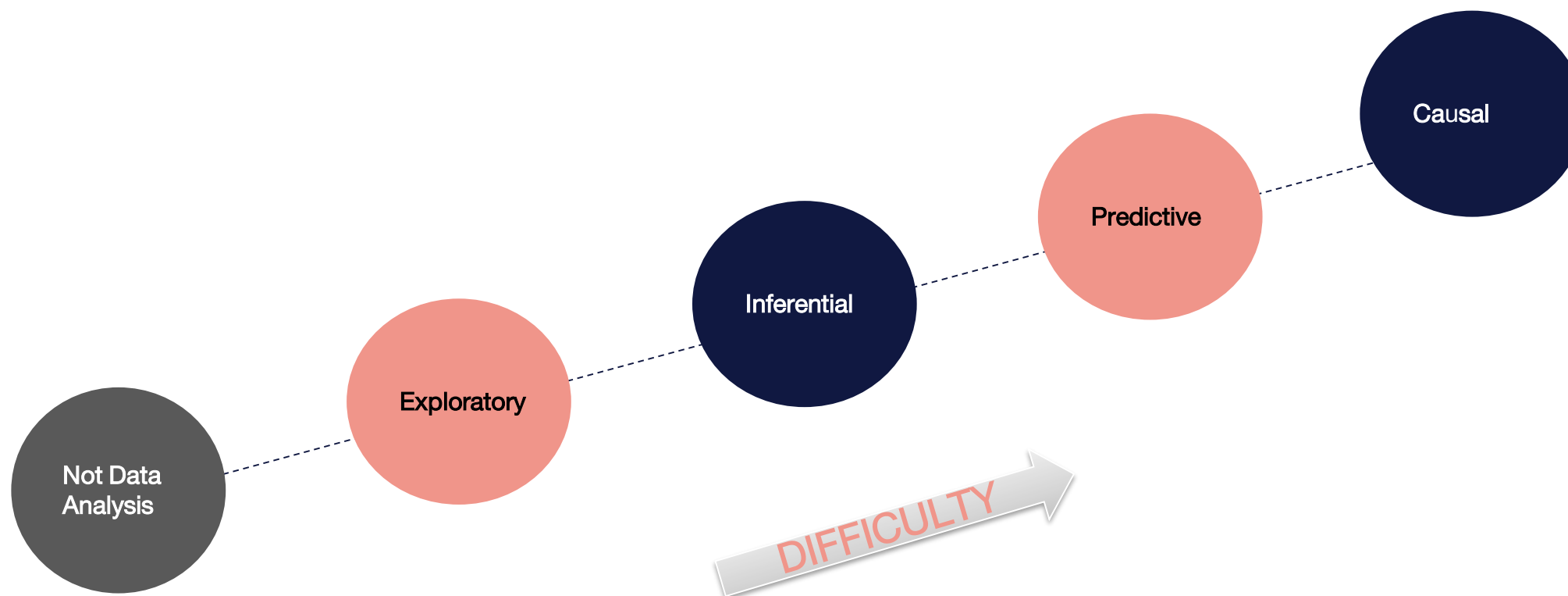
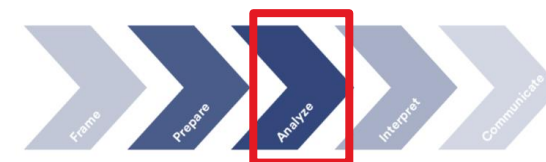
N

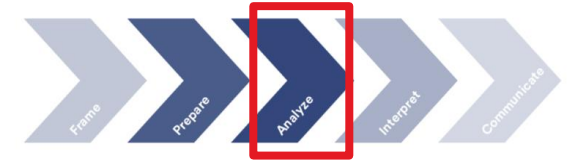


Y



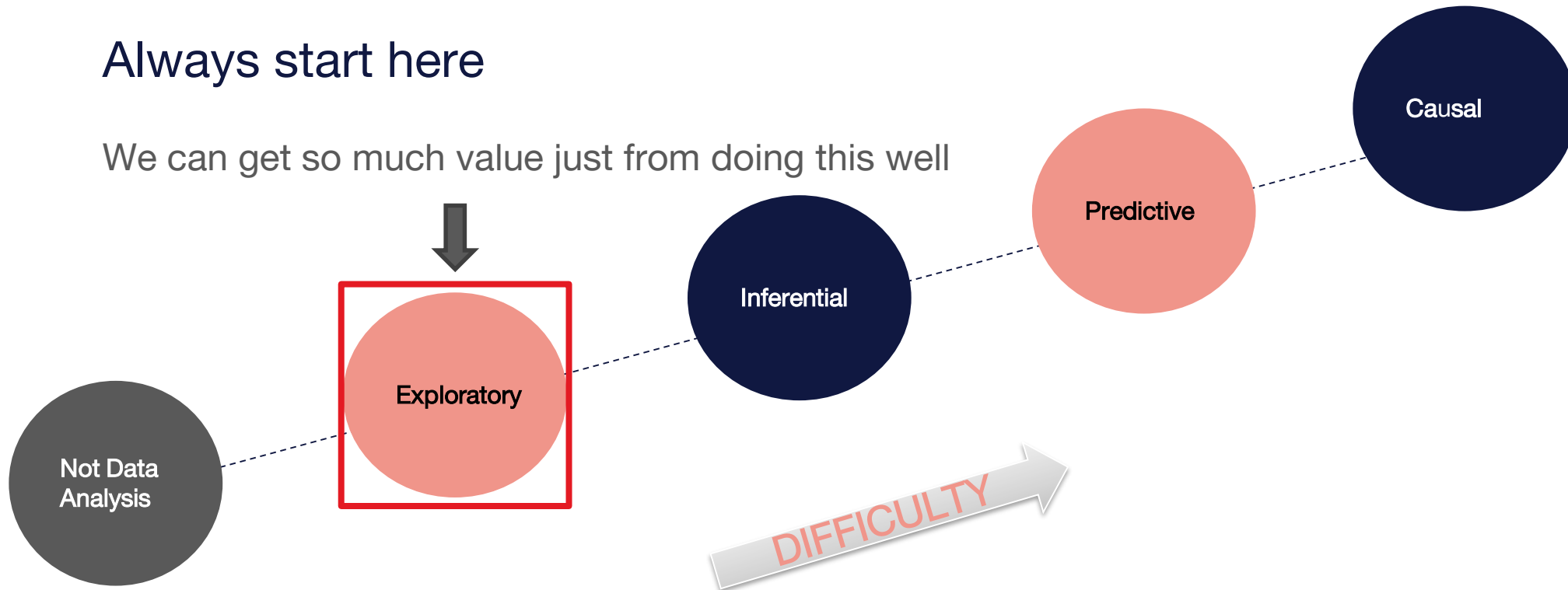




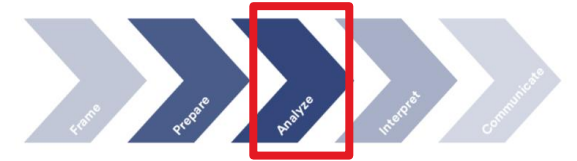


Always start here

We can get so much value just from doing this well



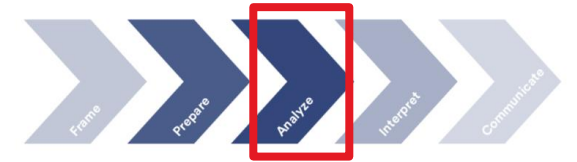




Exploratory data analysis is an attitude, a state of flexibility, a willingness to look for those things that we believe are not there, as well as the things we believe might be there.

- John Tukey





# Get the free book:

<http://leanpub.com/datastyle>

## The Elements of Data Analytic Style



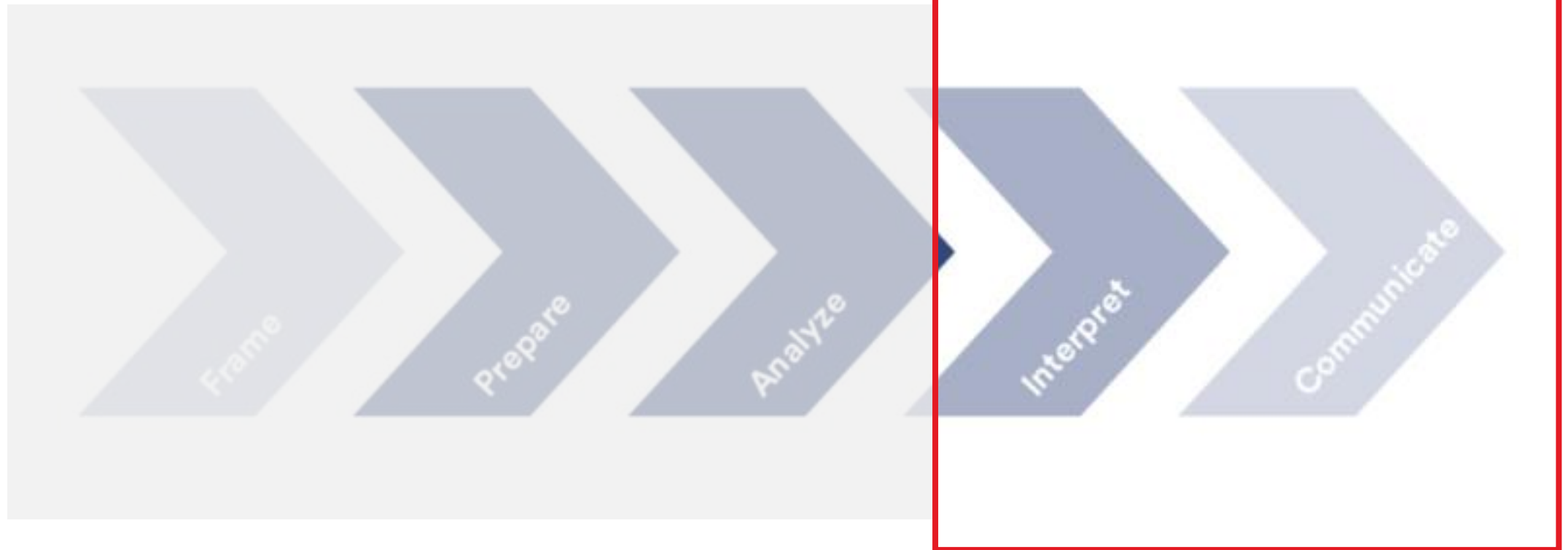
Jeff Leek

# Communicating The Results

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# Where are we?

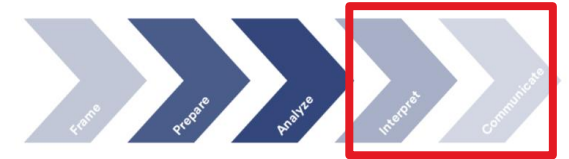




Distil Data

# Tell A Story

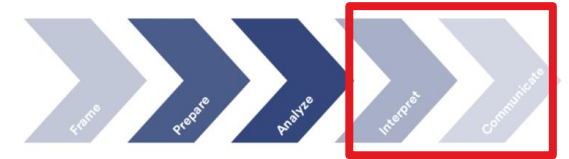
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# Telling A Story

THIS COUNTRY HAS A LONG HISTORY OF  
STORY TELLING





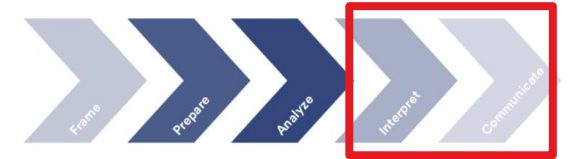
# Telling A Story

and then we did this

and then we tried this

COOL STORY BRO





# Telling A Story

FORGET THE PROCESS

TELL THEM WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THEM







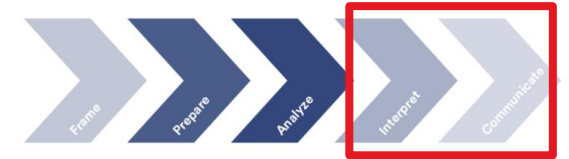
**YOUR RECOMMENDATION SHOULD CONSIDER THE AUDIENCE**

**What is this person going to think, feel, and do because of this information?**



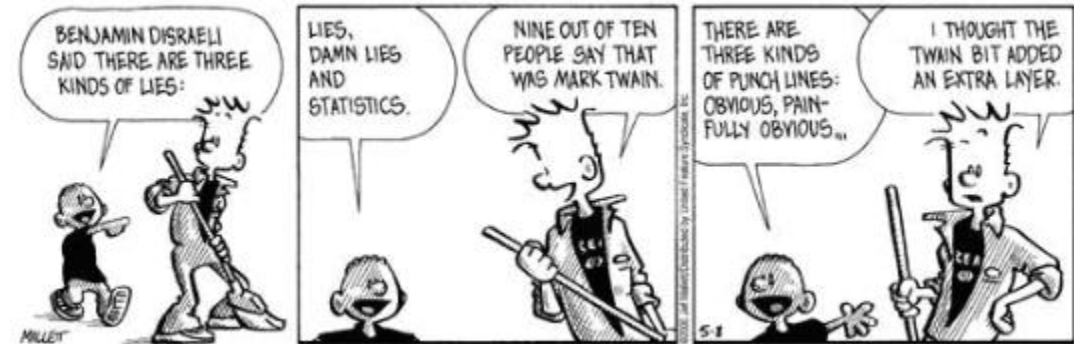
# Know your audience





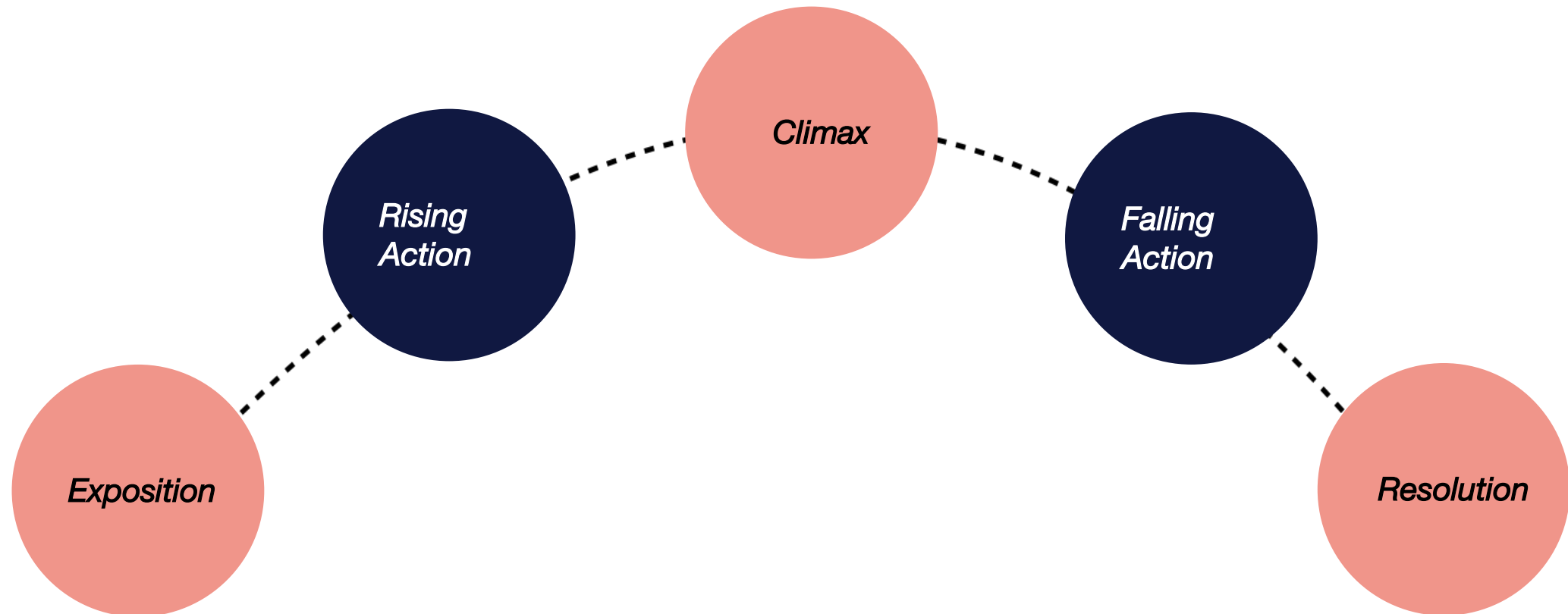
# Tell an honest story

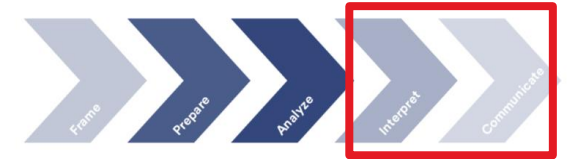
- Talk about any **uncertainty** in your findings.
- Use data analysis to uncover **insight**.
- Try to avoid using data analysis to **prove a point** or back up preconceived ideas.



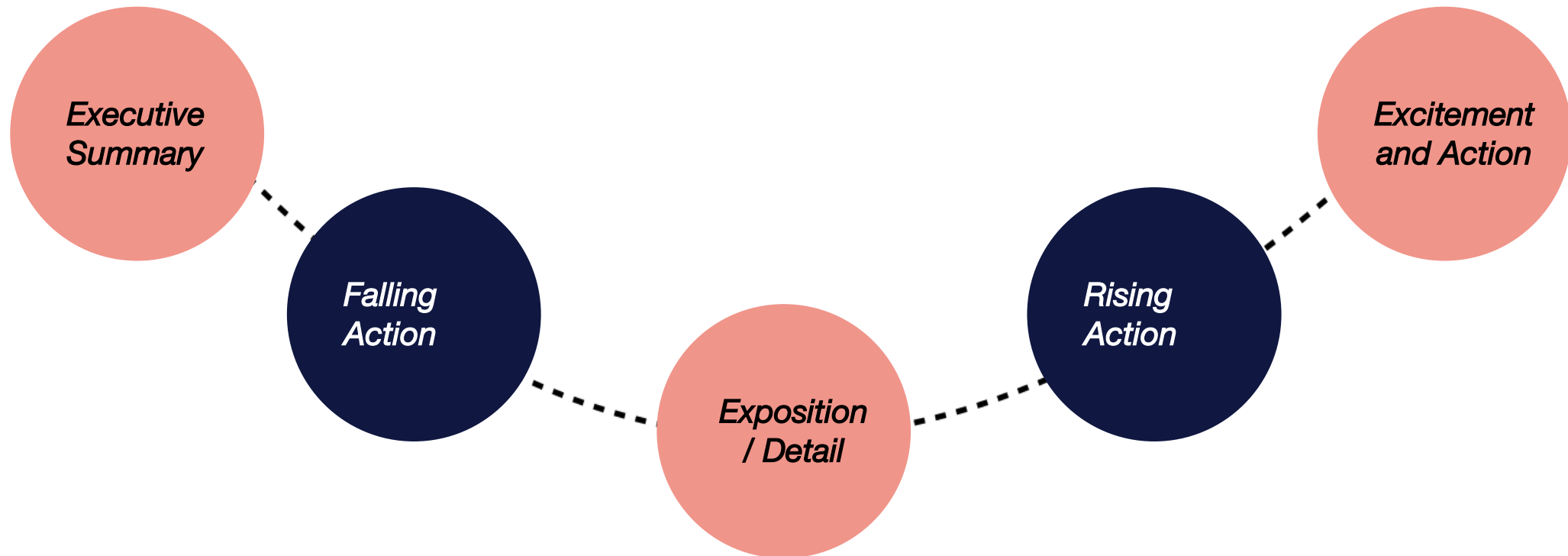


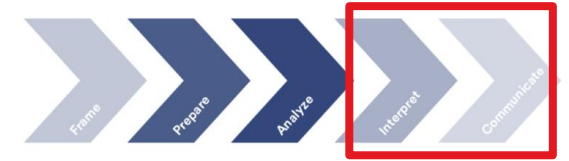
# Narrative Arc





# Narrative Arc – for data stories





# Top tips

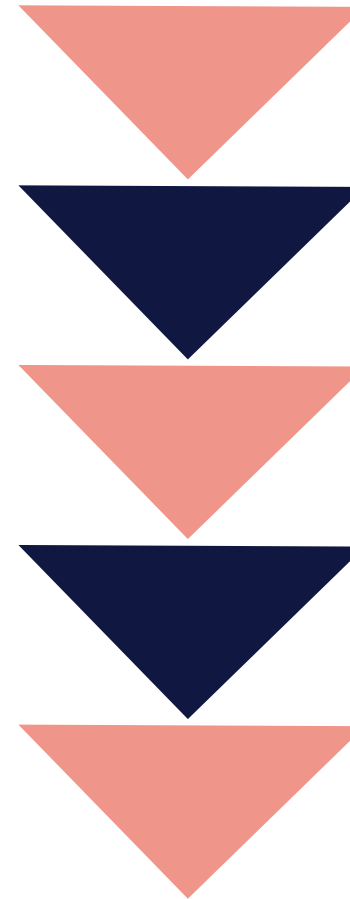
START HIGH LEVEL

AND THEN DIG IN

BE INTERACTIVE

BE PREPARED TO DEVIATE

BE PREPARED TO GUIDE INFLUENCE AND FOCUS



# Telling A Story

**What are the key messages for your audience?**

**What detail do they need to know?**

**Why should they care?**

**What action should they take?**

# Visualise the story

—





# Where are we?





# Surprise and visualise

Anscombe's quartet

| I    |       | II   |      | III  |       | IV   |       |
|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| x    | y     | x    | y    | x    | y     | x    | y     |
| 10.0 | 8.04  | 10.0 | 9.14 | 10.0 | 7.46  | 8.0  | 6.58  |
| 8.0  | 6.95  | 8.0  | 8.14 | 8.0  | 6.77  | 8.0  | 5.76  |
| 13.0 | 7.58  | 13.0 | 8.74 | 13.0 | 12.74 | 8.0  | 7.71  |
| 9.0  | 8.81  | 9.0  | 8.77 | 9.0  | 7.11  | 8.0  | 8.84  |
| 11.0 | 8.33  | 11.0 | 9.26 | 11.0 | 7.81  | 8.0  | 8.47  |
| 14.0 | 9.96  | 14.0 | 8.10 | 14.0 | 8.84  | 8.0  | 7.04  |
| 6.0  | 7.24  | 6.0  | 6.13 | 6.0  | 6.08  | 8.0  | 5.25  |
| 4.0  | 4.26  | 4.0  | 3.10 | 4.0  | 5.39  | 19.0 | 12.50 |
| 12.0 | 10.84 | 12.0 | 9.13 | 12.0 | 8.15  | 8.0  | 5.56  |
| 7.0  | 4.82  | 7.0  | 7.26 | 7.0  | 6.42  | 8.0  | 7.91  |
| 5.0  | 5.68  | 5.0  | 4.74 | 5.0  | 5.73  | 8.0  | 6.89  |

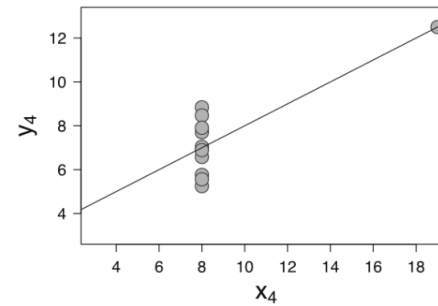
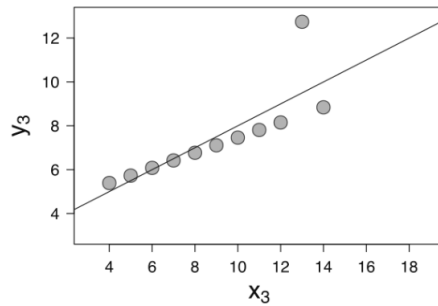
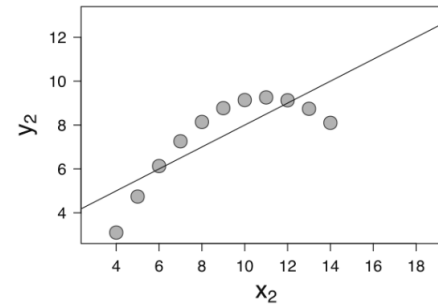
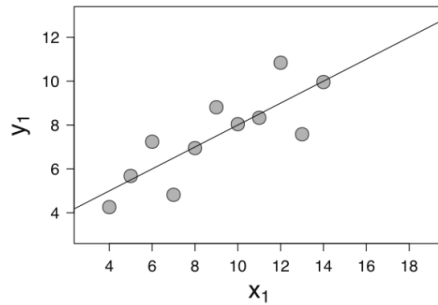
4 Different Sets of data with  
X, Y values

With the same summary  
statistics

| Plot | sum X | sum Y | avg X | avg Y | stdev X | stdev Y |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| I    | 99.0  | 82.5  | 9.00  | 7.50  | 3.32    | 2.03    |
| II   | 99.0  | 82.5  | 9.00  | 7.50  | 3.32    | 2.03    |
| III  | 99.0  | 82.5  | 9.00  | 7.50  | 3.32    | 2.03    |
| IV   | 99.0  | 82.5  | 9.00  | 7.50  | 3.32    | 2.03    |



# Anscombe Quartet



Visually they  
are very  
different!



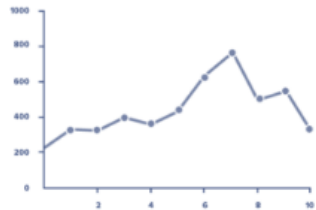
The greatest value of a picture is when it forces use to notice what we never expected to see.  
- John Tukey



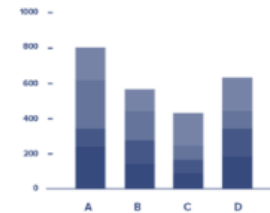


# Plenty of options

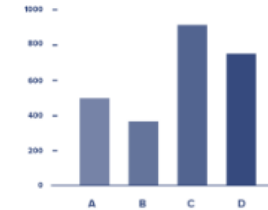
Line Graph



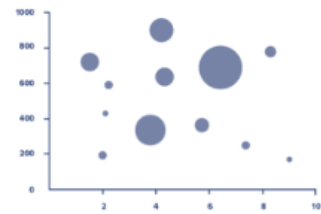
Stacked Bar Chart



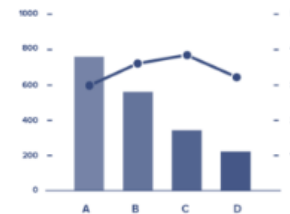
Bar Chart (vertical)



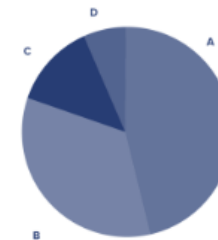
Bubble Chart



Pareto Chart



Pie Chart

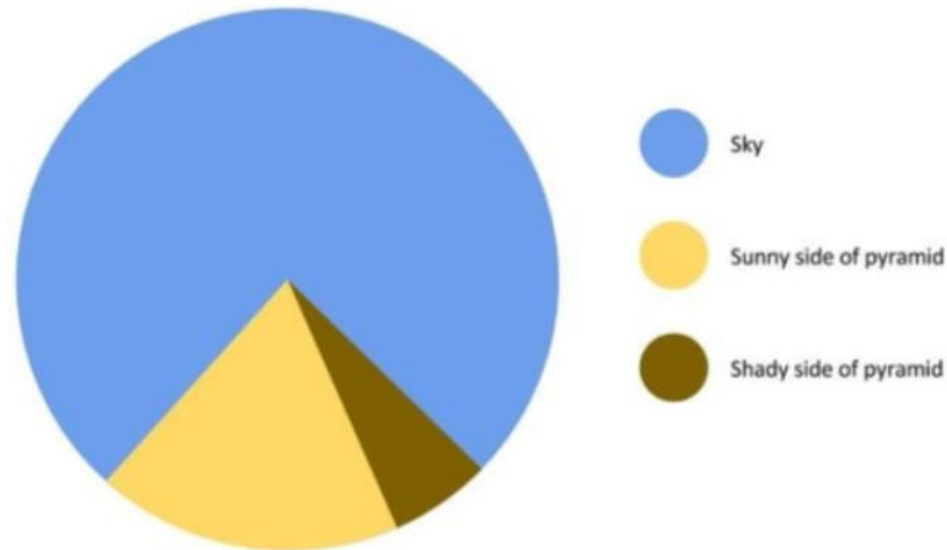


<https://datavizproject.com/>



# Be mindful of how we use data visualisation

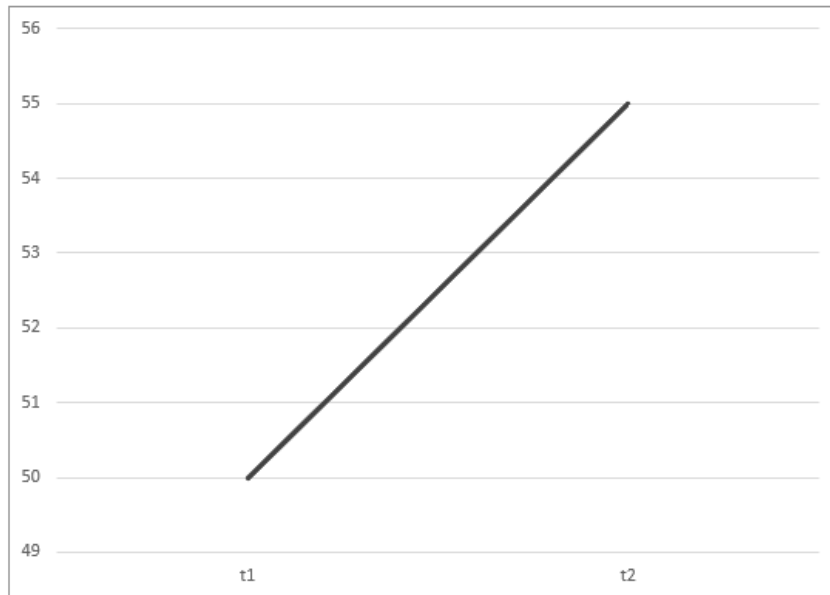
The Best Use of a Pie Chart



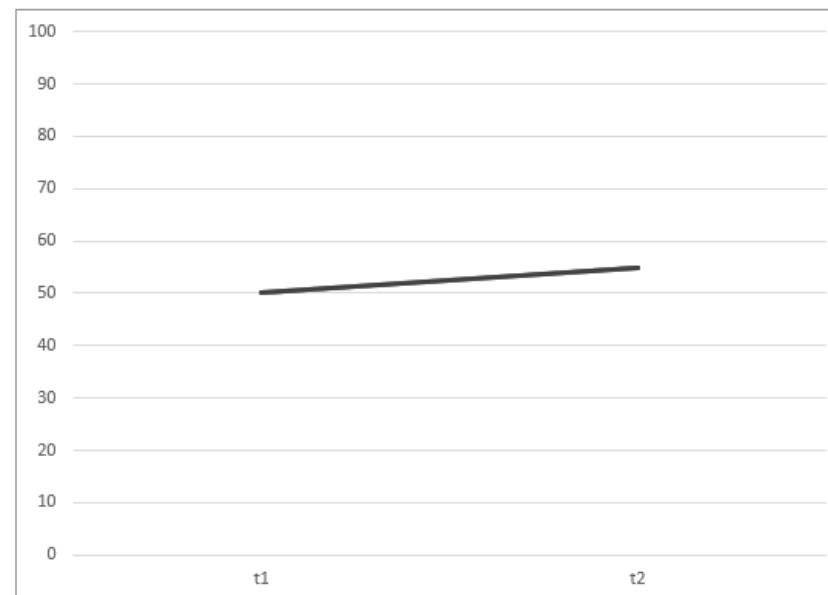


# Be mindful of how we use data visualisation

HUGE GROWTH IN SALES!



ALMOST NO GROWTH IN SALES!



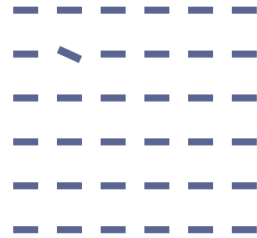


# More choices

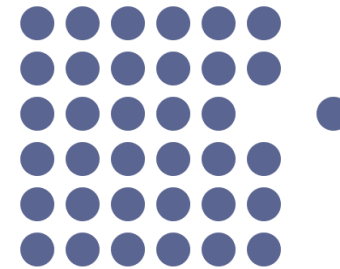
## SHAPE



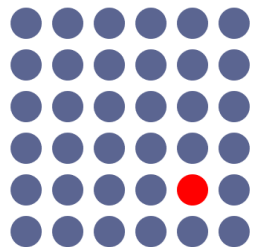
## ORIENTATION



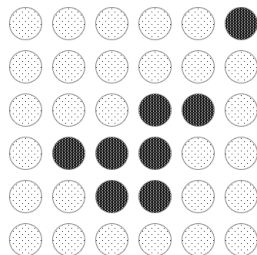
## POSITION



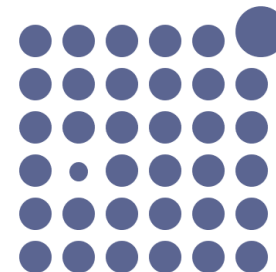
## COLOUR



## TEXTURE



## SIZE







# How many sevens?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 |



# How many sevens?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 |

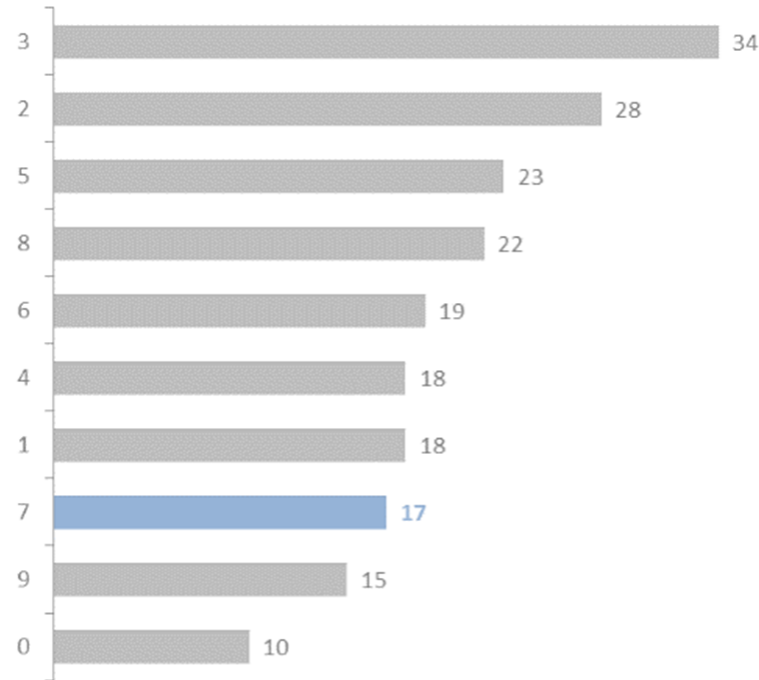


# How many sevens?

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 |



# How many sevens?

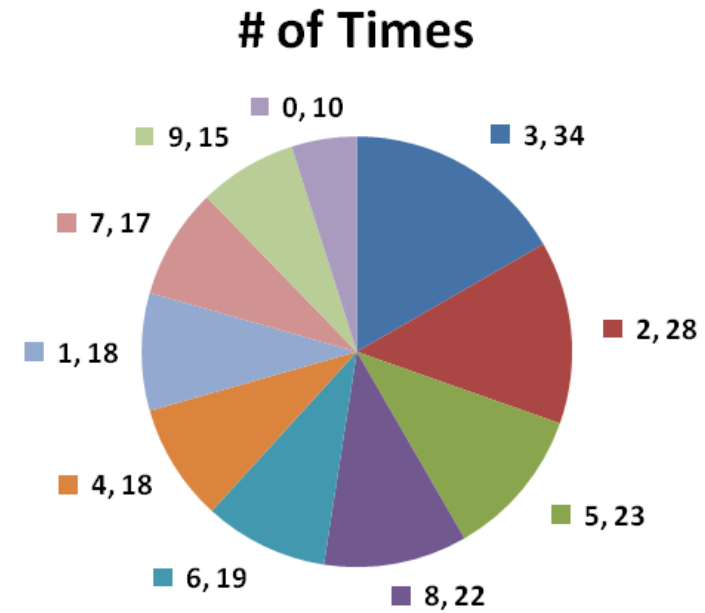
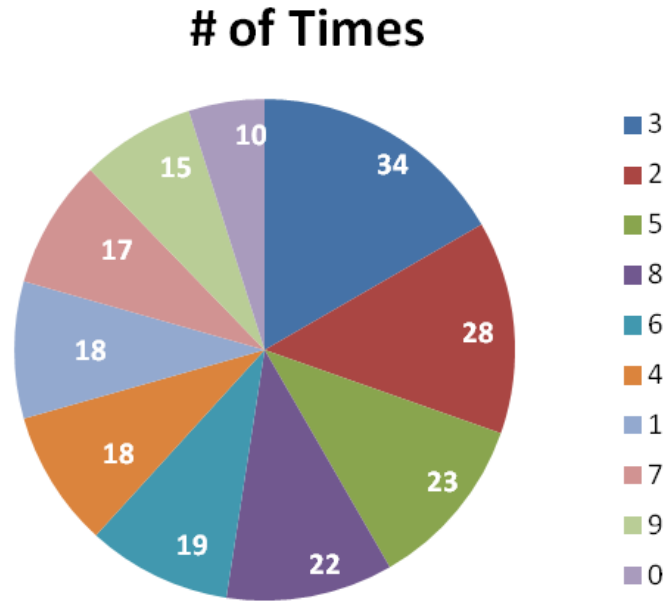


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5 2 8 3 6 1 9 3 6 2 5 3 4 3 8 3 8  
 5 8 9 6 2 1 4 4 3 9 3 6 5 2 4 9 1  
 0 2 5 2 8 3 6 1 6 2 9 3 8 3 8 5 8  
 4 2 0 3 3 5 4 1 8 2 0 1 2 5 3 6 4  
 3 9 1 0 8 9 5 3 4 5 3 2 5 2 8 3 6  
 1 6 2 9 3 8 3 8 5 8 4 2 0 3 3 5 4  
 1 8 2 0 1 9 6 2 1 4 4 3 9 3 6 5 2  
 4 9 1 0 2 5 2 8 3 6 1 6 2 9 3 8 3  
 8 5 4 8 2 0 3 3 5 4 1 8 2 0 1 2 5  
 3 6 4 3 9 1 0 8 9 5 3 4 5 3 2 5 2  
 8 3 6 1 6 2 4 6 2 5 9 1 5 2 6 3 6



# How many sevens?





There is no data that  
can be displayed in a  
pie chart, that cannot  
be displayed BETTER in  
some other type of  
chart.

- John Tukey





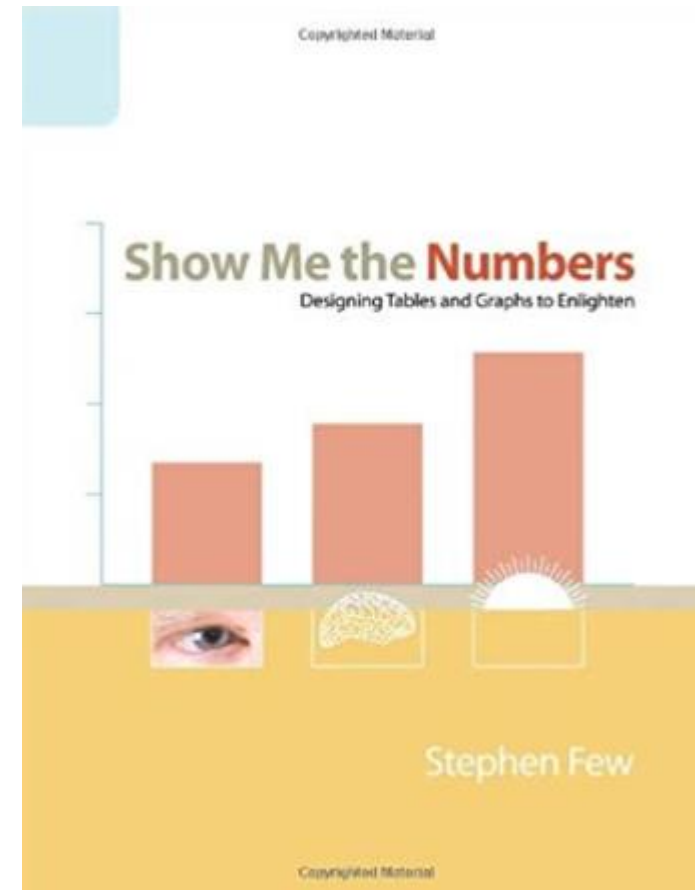
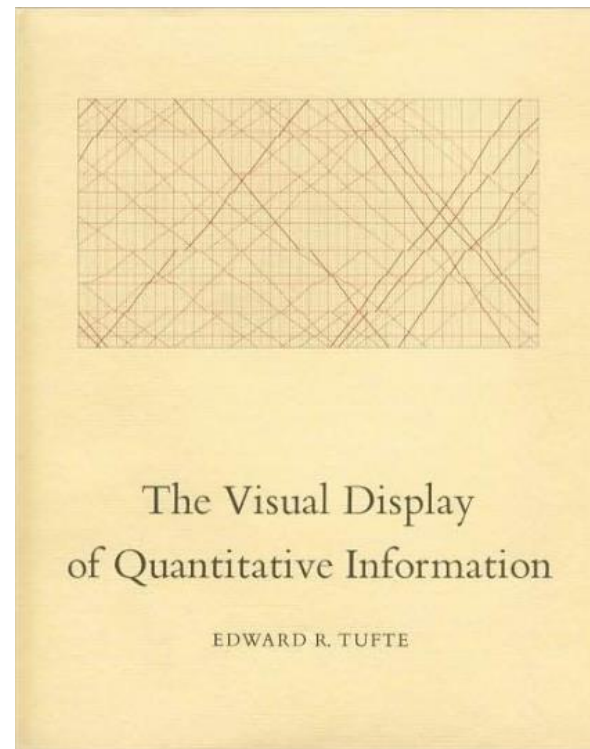
# Tips

- Less is more  $\Leftrightarrow$
- Draw attention to what is important
- Remove all noise
- “If everything yells for your viewers attention, nothing is heard” Aarron Walter, “Design for Emotion”





# More books!







Distil Data

# Get to the point

—



# Value peoples time

**Time is money**  
- Benjamin Franklin





Do you need a meeting with a powerpoint deck?





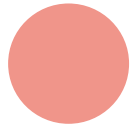
Distil Data

# Wrapping it up

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# Framework



**Frame:** carefully work out the best questions to answer



**Prepare:** clean that data good



**Analyze:** understand your data



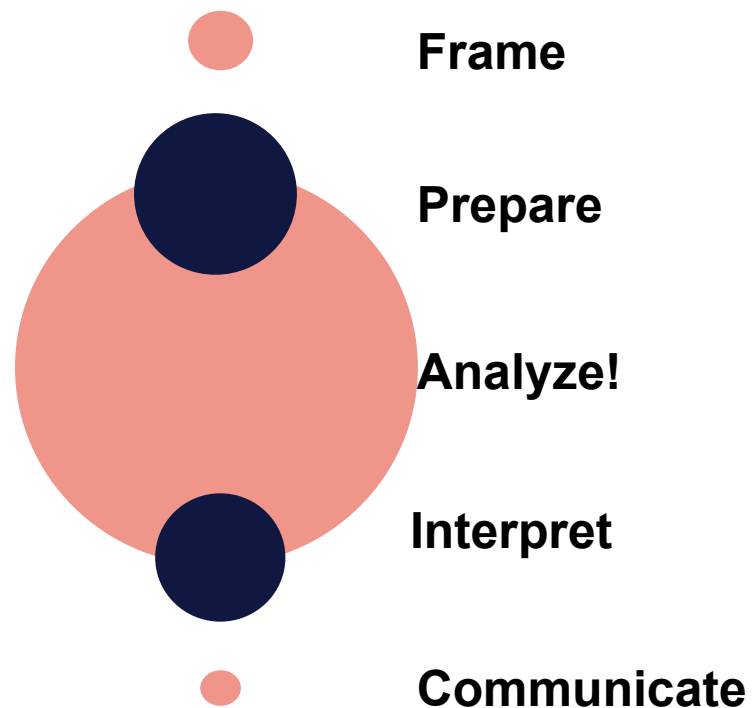
**Interpret:** translate your findings



**Communicate:** tell your story

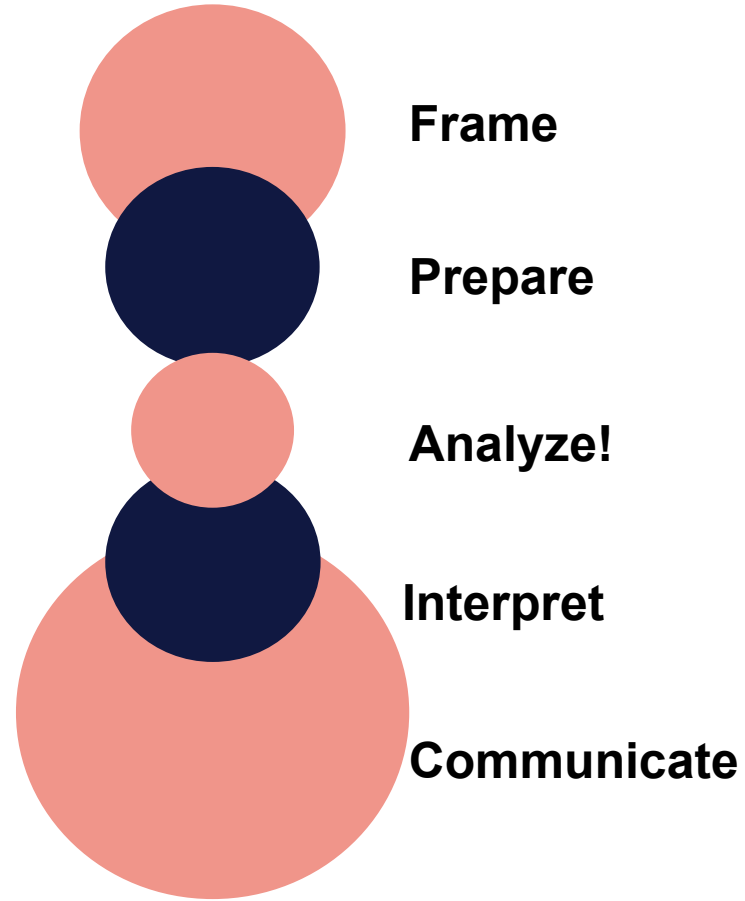


# Framework – Typical approach





# Framework – Best practice





# Learning Objectives



**Understand why effective data analysis always starts with a question**

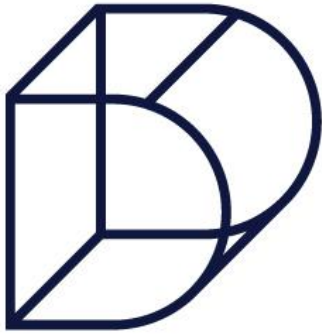
**Best practice tips for data collection and analysis**

**How to tell a story your audience actually wants to hear**



# Thank You!

# Your Instructor today was



**Distil Data**

James Orton  
Founder and Data Scientist



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# Q & A

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