**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).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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, or figures, or values that can be analyzed to gain valuable insights and it may represent anything that relays information such as texts, figures, colours, signals etc. Anything we use to gather information or what we can make meaning out of through analysis. Data can be used to make decisions that is insightful, make meaning of things we see or hear, it can also shape how we carry out our everyday tasks and activities.*   * When you come across a problem and you aren’t sure of the answer or solution, what do you do?   *I usually try to understand what the problem really is. I try and figure out why it is a problem and how much of a problem it is. I try and find resources, usually online, to help solve the issue, I tend to look out for ways that others have solved similar problems then follow in their footsteps.*   * How do you identify new and interesting problems to begin with? Is there a process you use to identify problems you want to solve?   *A way I come across interesting new problems is through the internet, social media, or from people around me. If I’m interested enough in solving the problem I begin to do some research online to find out more about the problem. As I begin to learn more about the problem I begin to see possible solutions to them then go ahead to solve it in a logical or sequential manner that seems right. If I am unable to solve them myself, I look for help where I can.* |