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2-2 Journal: Data Assessment

**Reflection**

After reading the first discussion assignment, I decided to read through the Data Analysis Roadmap to get a better understanding of how to complete a sample data assessment. The roadmap provided more details on the initial assessment task, as well as an overview of how it fits into the data analysis process. Next, I opened the sample data set in Excel, and I read through the comments and the data for all 5 steps on the spreadsheet. While reading through each step, I paid attention to my first impressions and what the data appeared to tell me, but I did not write anything down. Then, I opened my initial discussion post and typed in my thoughts for the discussion questions. Finally, I read through the data again and I added more to my post about what the data appeared to be telling me.

If I could go back and do the assignment again, I would write down notes as I read through the data set for the first time. Not only would notes have helped me answer the discussion questions last week, they also would have been helpful when re-opening the data and reflecting on my process this week.

The next step of the data analysis process after gathering first impressions is to review the data and perform some analysis. I noticed that the right/wrong decision was based on the dollar amount of AAPL stock on each date, but I would like to see it based on portfolio. The first thing I would look into for my analysis would be to calculate the a cash amount that is increased or decreased based on the buying/selling of stock. With these numbers, you might be better able to compare the decisions.

**Comments**

My first impression of the data set was how much the comments helped me understand the data and the calculations. I wrote in my discussion that from my limited programming experience, I already understand some of the ways that comments make understanding data easier. As I work on more and more projects, I think it will be important to include comments whenever possible. If I am ever looking back at my code, whether I am still working on the project or afterwards, comments will be a helpful guideline. Sometimes you can understand the code you are writing and how it will work at the time but be clueless about it when you look back later. This is also the case for when others will be trying to understand my work. Since code can sometimes be unique and individual to different people, it can be a challenge to fully comprehend other peoples’ code. Comments give others context of what they are looking at and can answer some of their questions directly.

**Strengths**

When it comes to the course outcome and description, I have a few varying strengths and weaknesses. I expect my main strength to be the fact that I have been studying and practicing R since last September. I have completed the chapters of a couple introductory textbooks and I spend a lot of time with different online learning resources. I believe that Modules 3-7 that focus on topics in RStudio will be a strength of mine. Another strength I hope to leverage in this course is general analytical and problem-solving abilities. I hope to be strong when it comes to evaluating the results of data analysis and drawing informed conclusions that are relevant and actionable in the real world.

A weakness of mine is that I have relatively little technical experience overall. Outside of R, I have no programming experience and prior to my first course at SNHU last semester, I have not taken a math course since high school. I anticipate Modules 2 & 8 regarding Linux and MySQL to be more of a struggle for me than the rest.

**Questions**

The only question I currently have is in regard to this week’s Codio exercises. I worked through the 3 projects and I attempted all of the challenges. I got 2/3 on the 2nd project and only ¼ on the 3rd project but I couldn’t figure out the answers so I eventually marked it as completed, which is hopefully what I was supposed to do for credit. Is there any way to get the right answers to the challenges that I missed?

I think that is my only question but I am excited to begin working on the project and Milestone 1 next week!