**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 like a digital fingerprint of our world. It consists of information, facts, and figures that describe everything around us. If I were to explain "data" to someone unfamiliar, I'd say it's like the building blocks of knowledge, the raw material from which we extract insights.  Data represents the story of our actions, choices, and experiences. It's a reflection of the past, a snapshot of the present, and a hint of the future. It's both the canvas and the paintbrush for the art of problem-solving.  Data is used for understanding, predicting, and optimizing. It helps us make informed decisions, solve complex puzzles, and uncover hidden patterns. It's the fuel for innovation and progress.   * When you come across a problem and you aren’t sure of the answer or solution, what do you do?   When I encounter a problem without a clear solution, I start by breaking it down into smaller, manageable pieces. I research, gather information, and try to understand the root causes. Problem-solving is a journey, and I see every challenge as an opportunity to learn and grow.   * How do you identify new and interesting problems to begin with? Is there a process you use to identify problems you want to solve?   To identify new and interesting problems, I stay curious. I actively seek out areas where I lack knowledge or where there are gaps in understanding. Sometimes, problems find me when I least expect it, like a puzzle piece that fits perfectly into my interests and skills. |