**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:** <25.01.2022> | **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 that can be used to derive further information. This definition can be dependent on how the owner of the data itself defines what it means by the fact and how they understand the existence of that fact. The information that can be derived may also be seen as something meaningul or even not. This is how data analysts need to be responsible in defining the problem they received, fining which data that are relevant to the problem, managing and analyzing the data so that meaningful information can be derived, and finally sharing what they know from the derived informationt to people who need.*   * When you come across a problem and you aren’t sure of the answer or solution, what do you do?   *The most practical approach to convince ourselves about the answer itself is by looking for other sources, stakeholders, or experts that might also be familiar with the problem and do a further cross-check on the solution we proposed before. On the other hand, the most philosophical approach to convince ourselves in such a situation by asking back why we cannot always be sure of the answer we suggest. At the end of the day, there has to be a single point where we have to believe with what we have achieved.*   * How do you identify new and interesting problems to begin with? Is there a process you use to identify problems you want to solve?   *I would like to answer this question from the background of my current work. Since I am a researcher, most of the time I define the problems from what I observed from the literature that I read. If this problem sounds unique and interesting to myself, I again discuss with my colleague to see together whether such a problem is realizable to be solved.* |