**Data Journal**

**Instructions**You may use this document as a template for Journal Entry activities in this course. Additionally, you can use the templates to take notes on what you’ve learned or just to jot down your thoughts about data analytics.

With every data journal entry, we recommend that you include some basic information to make it easier for you to come back and read your responses later. Adding the date to your journal entry and including the prompt will help you make sense of your responses later on. You can come back and reread them to understand how your opinions on different topics may have changed throughout the courses.

Below is an example of a completed journal entry to serve as a practical guide to your own journaling activities.

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| **Date:** Jan 1 | **Course/topic:** Course 1: Data, data everywhere |
| **Prompt:** | What does the word “data” mean to you? |
| **Journal Entry:** | When I think of data, I think of records and information. Data is a digital record. It could be a record of a sale, GPS records of where a car has been, or posts of images and pictures on social media. Data in itself isn’t useful, because there’s so much of it. However, enough data usually contains information and patterns. This information is valuable, and data analysts are the ones who extract it. |
| **Other thoughts or questions:** | The amount of data that is created each year gets bigger and bigger!  Data is important! Nowadays, companies that don’t use their data are at a disadvantage to those that do. |

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| **Date:** 5/13/2024 | **Course/topic: Google data analytics capstone project** |
| **Prompt:** | Creating a comprehensive project using all the techniques I have learned in the course about data cleaning, asking SMART questions, and coming up with insights and actionable items. |
| **Journal Entry:** | From this project I would like to come up with my own questions to ask a dataset and then come up with ways to answer them using SQL and/or R. I am also hoping to create some good static and/or dynamic visuals with tableau. |
| **Other thoughts or questions:** | * I looked at some kaggle notebooks. Would like to know how one comes across/mines a publicly available dataset from a source like the CDC. * I feel I am the weakest in coming up with questions to ask the dataset. Let’s try and follow the techniques for SMART questions from the ASK portions of this course. |

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### Need another journal entry template?

If you have more journal entries to complete, please copy and paste one of the tables above and use it as a template for future entries.