Based on the course videos and the reading material, a data scientist is a professional who analyzes datasets which may be big or small, structured or unstructured and is able to derive meaningful insight using mathematical, computational or other techniques. However, this is merely the function of a data scientist, going beyond technical proficiency a data scientist should display curiosity and interest in the problem/areas they are working on and also be a good communicator & story-teller to provide stakeholders with actionable insight.

Quoting the course - Data science is what a data scientist does. Data science is the field that has emerged over the last few years to formalize the techniques and best practices to handle the vast amount of processable data that has been produced. It can be understood as a field that guides one to collect, clean, store, process, analyze and present meaningful insight from the collected data.

I am currently a professional in the supply chain vertical serving large scale manufacturing companies. I would like to learn data science tools to be able to apply to the planning/inventory and logistics processes we use to improve the cost structure for the industry.

Ten main components of a report delivered at the end of a data science project -

1. Cover Page - The author considers a cover page to be essential to every project. It should mention the names, relevant information and especially the timing of publication of the report.

2. Table of Contents - It is recommended for most report especially if the main contents of the report is long.

3. Executive Summary - Summary should give a quick highlight of the main takeaways of the project.

4. Introduction - It is a good practice to introduce someone who is not familiar with the field/topic with some big picture details about the background of the industry/area. It is also a good practice to mention relevant literature review of previously completed research in the field and identify how this work plans to improve/fill the gaps.

5. Methodology - This is where you expand on the data collection methods, sources and used analysis tools.

6. Results - Results is where you expand upon the actual analysis and use statistical tools to derive metrics. You also provide the answers arrived at with any caveats stated.

7. Conclusion - Conclusion is the generalized version of your final recommendation/insight and also a call for how future research can be conducted in the area.

8. Acknowledgements - Good practice to thanks the authors eg. my thanks to the various teachers of this course.

9. References - Cite the referred material in preparation of this work.

10. Appendices - Any work that may be relevant to the more curious/detailed researcher but too cumbersome for executives who need the analysis.