Learning Log: Ask SMART questions about real-life data sources

Overview

In a previous self-reflection, ☑ you prepared for a "data conversation" with someone in your life by creating SMART questions to help you understand more about the data they usually interact with, the limitations of the data they have, and their business goals. Now, you'll complete an entry in your learning log to reflect on that conversation and how you might approach this data for a real project. By the time you complete this log entry, you will have a stronger understanding of how to use the SMART framework to craft effective questions about real life data. This will be a key skill as you begin to develop your own data analysis projects.

Review your notes

Before you begin your new entry, take a moment to locate and read the notes you took during your data conversation. Based on the answers to your well-prepared SMART questions, you should have a better context for your target audience now. Review those answers and start thinking about the following:

- Stakeholder's business goals; in this case, the person you had a conversation with
- Identifying the data needed to answer the SMART questions
- Exploring what data the stakeholder already has
- Determining the data that you don't have, but need in order to answer the questions

You'll reflect on how your data conversation went and what you learned in your learning log template which is linked below.
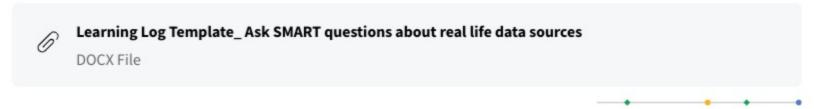
Access your learning log

To use the template for this course item, click the link below and select "Use Template."

Link to learning log template: Ask SMART questions about real life data sources ☑

OR

If you don't have a Google account, you can download the template directly from the attachment below.

> 📎 **Learning Log Template_ Ask SMART questions about real life data sources**
> DOCX File

Reflection

Write 5-7 sentences (100-140 words) about data sources discussed during your real-life data conversation.

First, consider your data conversation and how it went. Here are some questions to help you get started:

- Was there anything challenging about getting the conversation started?
- Were there questions you didn't get to ask?
- Did you manage your time effectively?
- Did you take notes? Are they as detailed as you need them to be?
- Are you missing any information? Is there anything that you still find unclear or vague?
- If you could do the conversation over again, is there anything you would change?

Next, turn your attention to your notes and reflect on what you know about the data itself:

- What are the sources of data available for the project?
- Which data sources were qualitative and which were quantitative? Explain your answer.
- What decisions could you make when considering each data source separately? Could you make different decisions about the data if you combined it? If so, give an example.
- Is there any kind of data that isn't available, but you would like to find? If so, what is it, and why would you like to know more about it?

When you've finished your entry in the learning log template, make sure to save the document so your response is somewhere accessible. This will help you continue applying data analysis to your everyday life. You will also be able to track your progress and growth as a data analyst.

✓ Completed   **Go to next item**

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