

Three Types Of Questions To Ask About Any Data Set

1. Questions about what you see in the data

For example:

- Why is there a spike in the data on November 3rd?
- Is there a difference between how boys and girls are represented in this data?
- Is there a correlation between socioeconomic status and geography?
- Are there differences in completion rates between activities that are more technical in nature versus those that are more adaptive?

2. Questions about where the data comes from

For example:

- Who compiled this data?
- Is this data from a reliable source?
- Is the data self-reported?
- What additional data might I need in order to fully answer my question and/or triangulate my original data set?

3. Questions about what you bring to the data through your interpretation

For example:

- What is the lens that I'm using to interpret the data (e.g. gender, age, expertise)?
- What bias might be present in my analysis of the data?
- What assumptions do I hold about the subject of the data ?
- What assumptions do I hold about how the data was collected?