Study Skills 2: Data Analysis Wheel – Getting the most out of the data

Data analysis is interpreting the meaning of data, and involves looking for patterns, trends, and other relationships, as well as anything that looks unusual! To critically analyse data, we need to ask questions, to understand what it *really* shows and how it is useful to us.

**What question does this data answer?**

**What is the purpose of this data?**

**What is the author’s main purpose?**

**What question is the author trying to answer?**

**Where is this data from and is it a source you trust?**

**Is the data being presented accurately?**

**What are the author’s basic concepts?**

**What are the author’s important conclusions?**

**What information is the author using?**

**What are the implications of the author’s interpretation?**

**What assumptions is the author making?**

**What point of view has the author taken?**

**Questions for Data Analysis**

**Why is the data presented like this and not in some other form?**

**Is there any missing information which should be included?**

**What questions are *not* answered?**

**What patterns or relationships can you see?**

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