



Teamwork and Communication in the DataJam

Jake Luterman, DataJam Mentor
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Teamwork is key!

The DataJam is a team competition! In order to compete, a group of at least 2 students must work together to explore a topic of their choice. It's important that everyone on the team contributes to the DataJam. Making sure the whole team is working together and communicating can help to:

- Boost productivity
- Even out the workload
- Allow for deeper understanding of the topic
- Make the DataJam experience more fun!



What should your team be doing?



Discuss ideas together

If anyone in the group has a good idea for a part of the project (like a research question), make sure to share it with everyone so they can fully understand it!



Progress checks are great

Make sure to let your teammates know what you have been learning, or any changes to the project you might want to make. This is especially important for teams that decide to split up the project and assign different parts to different people. Miscommunication is more prone in this situation.



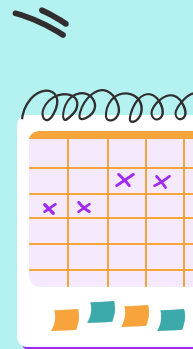
Splitting up work?

Different groups work differently. Some groups may want to tackle each part of the project together, while others may want to split it up (see progress checks section).



Communicate!

None of these ideas work very well if the team isn't regularly communicating! Make sure you all make the time to talk as a team regularly.



Mentors!

Your other team members are not the only resource you have in the DataJam! Your mentor, or mentors, are there to provide feedback to the whole team through almost every step of the DataJam.

Presenting your DataJam project is for you and your teammates to do, but mentors can help you rehearse and practice answering questions you may get from judges.

Make sure to take ***full advantage*** of your mentors, the more you ask questions and get needed help, the stronger your project will be.



Mentors are here to help with:



Research Question

Your team will come up with a topic or question to do research on, and you will share your ideas with your mentors!

Your mentor can help shape your research question so it is testable using analysis of data sets.

Example Research Question:

Are more playgrounds in a neighborhood associated with a decrease in childhood obesity?

A good research question:

- Asks a specific question
- Makes it clear what relationship(s) you want to research!

Mentors are here to help with:



Data

Finding data to answer your question can be difficult!
Your mentor can help you search for publicly available, usable data.

Using the example research question from earlier, we might want to find datasets on playgrounds per neighborhood, as well as childhood obesity cases per neighborhood.

See page 33 of the
[“HOW TO CONDUCT A DATAJAM PROJECT GUIDE”](https://www.thedatajam.org/resources):
<https://www.thedatajam.org/resources>

Mentors are here to help with:



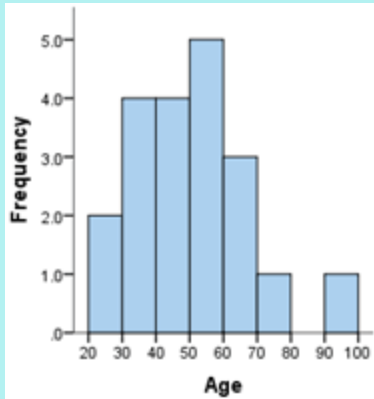
Advice

Mentors can help with any questions on any part of the DataJam process! Ask away!

Mentors are here to help with:



Visualizations



Histogram

Once the data has been processed, your mentor can help suggest some effective ways to visualize the data, allowing for good communication of the results of your analyses.

Different questions will require different tools and visualizations! Your mentors can help you pick visualizations and explain the rationale for different choices.

For some tips of how to make visualizations, see the DataJam resources page and scroll to whichever platform (Google Sheets, Python, etc.) you plan on using:
<https://www.thedatajam.org/resources>

How Much Water Do We Use?

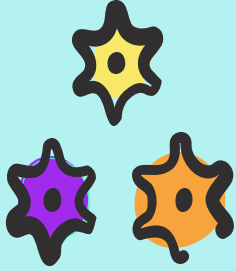


Source: American Water Works Association Research Foundation, "Residential End Uses of Water," 1999

Pie Chart



Mentors are here to help with:



✦ Analysis

Your mentor can recommend analyses you will need to do to answer your research question!

Analysis involves running statistical tests on your data to answer your research question.

Different questions will require different tests, but your mentor is here to help find the right ones!



Mentors are here to help with:



Data Story

It's important to present Visualizations and Analysis in a way that tells a coherent story to your audience. The mentors are there to help with this!

It's easy to slap some graphs and numbers onto a presentation, but that doesn't do a good job of communicating your project. Your mentors can provide feedback to make sure that your data story flows smoothly and effectively.



**Good luck
with the
DataJam!**

