Principles of Data Management – First Class Activity

Date – Tuesday, August 29, 2017 – Model Solutions

Do task 1 immediately and then wait for the instructor to announce when to start on task 2

Task 1 (for individuals)

- You’ll be given a copy of the document titled “Tips(*) for Students to Help Them Get the Most out of this Course”
- **Write your first and last name at the top of the document** – you will be turning in this document before class ends
- Review the document
- **Think** about how you would prioritize these tips to reflect how you view the items in terms of being personally relevant to you or potentially important to this class
- **Write down your priority order**, using the number 1 to stand for the most important item to you, 2 to stand for the next most important item to you, and so on. To record your numbers, just **put them in the Student Priority column**.

Task 2 (for groups)

- **Wait** for the instructor to call for students to get together in small groups
- Select one person from the group to **write a summary sheet for the group; include** on the summary sheet the **first and last names of group members**
- **Discuss** individual responses first
- List **the five highest priority tips** important to this group
- **Add brief notes** explaining why these tips were selected

Responses from Individuals

32 students out of 38 registered students turned in sheets with individual responses.

Clearly this activity does not have model solutions. Rather it was designed to make you think a bit as well as give you an opportunity to meet and speak with other students in the class. As was mentioned in class, we don’t want to attach too much significance to the scale used to rank the items, so what follows are just a few general observations.

The tips that seemed to be selected as most important to individuals were:
- Tip 6 (details and due dates)
• Tip 12 (learn deeply from actively experimenting)
• Tip 4 (organize your work effort)
• Tip 3 (concentrate on tasks)

Of all the tips selected, tip 6 was ranked number 1 most often, followed by tips 3 and 12.

Responses from groups

8 groups of registered students (consisting of 3, 4, or 5 students each) turned in sheets with group responses.

The tips that seemed to be selected as most important to these groups were:
  • Tip 6 (details and due dates)
  • Tip 4 (organize your work effort)
  • Tip 3 (concentrate on tasks)

Of all the tips selected, tip 3 was ranked (or listed) first most often.

Instructor’s favorite tips

While I think all of the tips have merit (otherwise I would not have listed them), my personal favorites with respect to students in my classes are:

  • Tip 6 (details and due dates)
  • Tip 7 (communication and urgency)
  • Tip 3 (think task, not just time)
  • Tip 14 (guides)
  • Tip 15 (course activities and purpose)