



Activity 9.1

Internet Scavenger Hunt

Learning Target for the Activity

- Explain the basic concepts in quantitative data analysis.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to give participants practice with the basic concepts in quantitative data analysis presented in this chapter. The ultimate aim is to increase facility and fluency with the concepts so they become an integral part of school leaders' reasoning about data.

Time

45 minutes

Materials Needed

- Internet access and connected devices (laptops, tablets, or phones) for all participants

Suggested Room Setup

Arrange tables and chairs so they are comfortable for both individual and small-group work.

Directions

Complete each step in the order below:

1. In this activity you will do an internet scavenger hunt, "scavenging" for additional interesting or useful information on these topics: referencing frameworks (norm referencing, criterion referencing, standards referencing), aggregation and disaggregation, unit of analysis, growth measures, and measurement error.
2. First, re-read the section "Data Analysis Basics" in this chapter. Then, as a group decide who will pursue which topic. Every member should have at least one topic to scavenge.
3. Each individual uses an internet browser and search engine to find information about their assigned topic(s). Take about 20 minutes to locate more information on the topic that is understandable to you. Do not worry if some of the information requires advanced statistical knowledge (e.g., you may find some treatments of measurement error that are highly statistical). Focus on scavenging information that is interesting or useful to you and that adds to the understanding of the concept you got from reading this chapter. Make notes (electronically would be easier, because you can copy, paste, and save URLs and other information, but using paper is fine too) to share with the group that tell (a) what you learned about the topic beyond what is in the chapter and (b) why you think that information is interesting, useful, or otherwise worth sharing with the group.
4. Reconvene as a group, and share what you have learned about your topic and why the information is interesting and/or useful to you. Each topic is presented one at a time, by the scavenger who retrieved the information, followed by a brief period for questions and/or discussion.

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Closure

Facilitate a discussion based on these questions:

- What did you learn from this activity?
- How will this new knowledge be useful to you as a school leader?
- What new questions do you have?
- How might you find answers to them?