



experience: **LIAISON** 

SEATTLE | FEBRUARY 15-16, 2023



Be Honest: Why Do You Care About Data?

• • • • •
Jeff Morgan

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Presenter



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How is this presentation going to help you?



1. Reframe what it means to use data to make decisions as real people, not computers
2. Increase your confidence in proposing creative new ideas to leadership
3. Gain some immediately useful (and honest) ways to use data to propel your career in Strategic Enrollment Management

“Change with Analytics”



From the 2019 Joint Statement from AIR/Educause/NACUBO:

“Analytics is the use of data, statistical analysis, and explanatory and predictive models to gain insight and act on complex issues.”

“Data analytics initiatives are most effective when they target clear, measurable outcomes...”



A Joint Statement on Analytics from:



Source - <https://changewithanalytics.com/statement/>

Why do you care about data?





Are you being totally honest right now?

.....

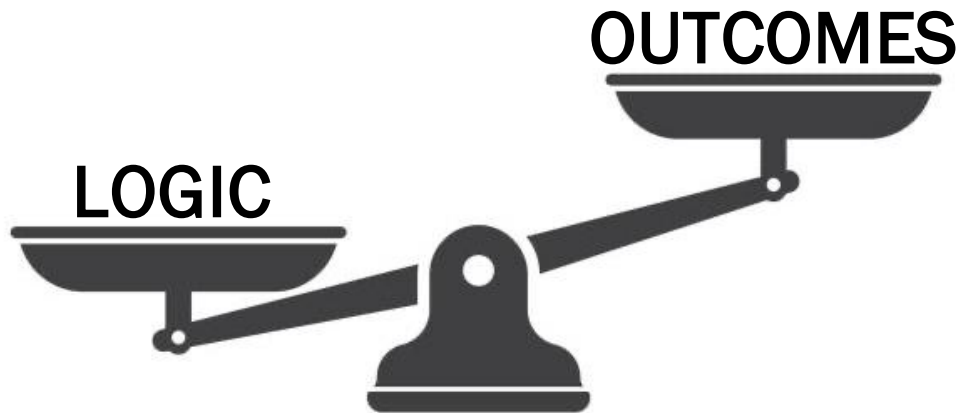
One *Honest* Reason



*“...a large portion of consumerism is designed to achieve the same thing...
people are seeking to impress each other,
or they are seeking to impress themselves.”*

Sutherland, Rory. *Alchemy*. London: WH Allen, 2019

How do you impress people with data?



“It is better to be vaguely right than exactly wrong.”

Read, Carveth. *Logic, deductive and inductive* (1898), p. 351

Think About It



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Good Logic
Bad Outcome

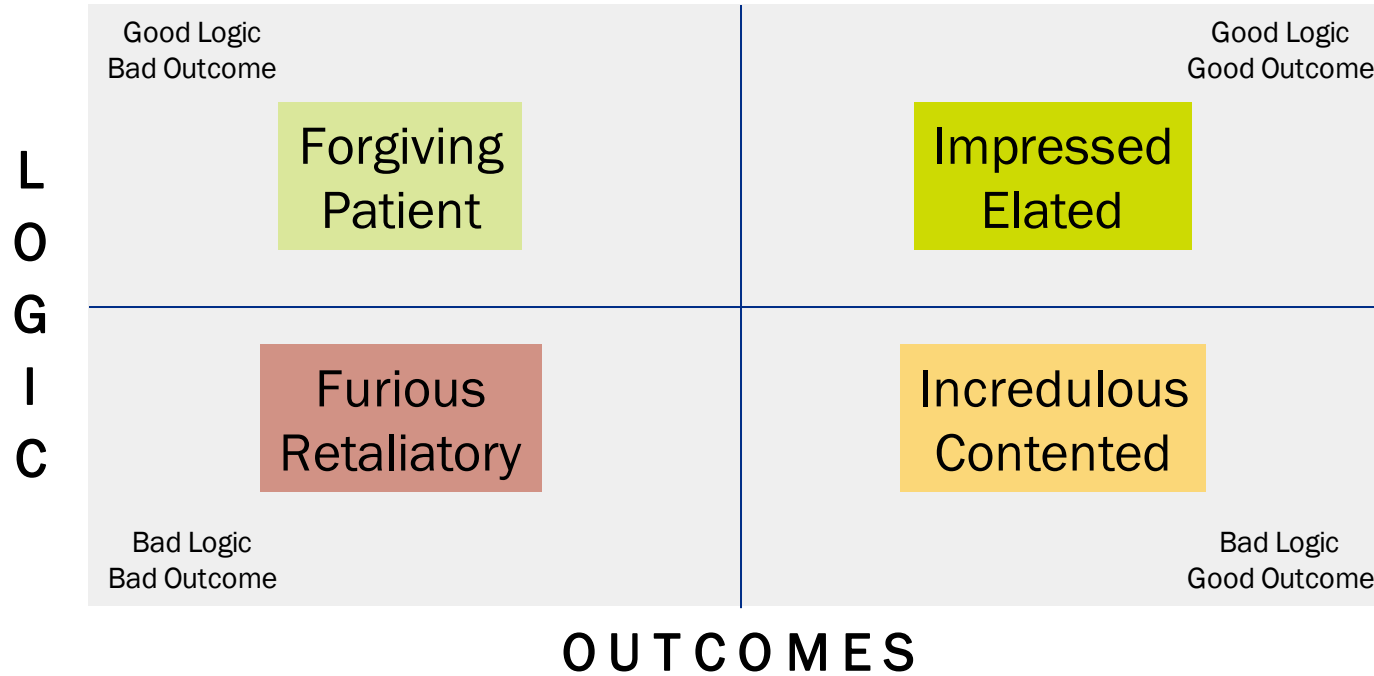
Good Logic
Good Outcome

Bad Logic
Bad Outcome

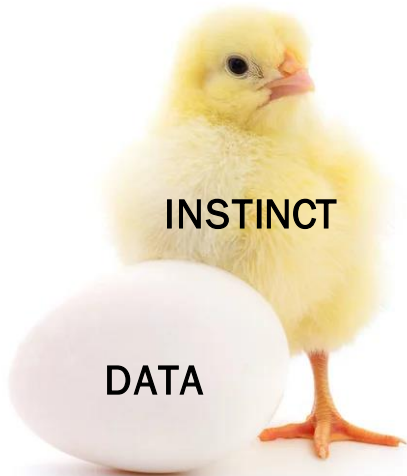
Bad Logic
Good Outcome

OUTCOMES

How Others Will React to Your Decisions



Where do “good” ideas come from?



Most new and truly groundbreaking ideas have little to no historical data collected to support them.

The only way to collect the data from new ideas is to try them.

(...but you just said I need logic from data to support my new ideas?!?)

Hacks

secrets for improving your relationship with data... and maybe your boss(es)



Hack #1: Don't Depend on Data for Ideas



DO THIS INSTEAD

Before you start a data project, ask yourself:

*"What action will
I take once
I have the answers?"*

Good answers...

- Reference specific resources
- Convey clear goals
- Have situational reasons for needing to be addressed

Bad answers...

- Sound specific but aren't
- Ambivalent towards the end-game
- Not tied to a problem anyone currently has

Hack #2: Don't Expect Surprises



DO THIS INSTEAD

*Ask yourself
the dumb questions and
be honest about the
answers*

M.L. Models can...

Tell you what is true of
the data

Be automated/make
tasks and decisions
easier

M.L. Models cannot...

Predict something they've
never seen before

Hack #3: Don't Data Dump Your Analysis



DO THIS INSTEAD

"Increase the team's exposure to insights – not data"

Insights should be...

- Relevant to current objectives
- Actionable
- Visualized and summarized

Insights should not...

- Overwhelm
- Require significant explanation

Hack #4: Don't be Afraid to use a Little Magic



DO THIS INSTEAD

*Back up your ideas with
more advanced analytics*

Very impressive:

Objective	Goal	Result	Current	Delta
Gift Aid	Minimize	9,421,386	9,269,419	151,967

Constraints						
Name	Value	Minimum	Result	Maximum	Current	Delta
Predicted Enrollment		2000	≤ 2000		1849	151
High School GPA		3.50	≤ 3.62		3.61	0.02
Total Net Tuition Revenue			\$16,087,248		\$14,733,813	\$1,353,435
Discount Rate		42%	≤ 42%	≤ 45%	43%	-1%

Residency Type	Expected Family Contribution	1	2	3	4
IN STATE	None	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
	\$0	\$16,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
	\$1 - \$5,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
	\$5,001 - \$10,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
	\$10,001 - \$20,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000

Hacks



- Let the action you want to take drive your analysis
- Ask yourself the dumb questions and be honest about the answers
- Focus on sharing insights
- Use a little magic



How do you feel about data now?



A Joint Statement on Analytics from:



Q & A



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Thank You



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othotSM
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