

A blue-tinted photograph of the Seattle skyline. The Space Needle is prominent on the left. In the background, snow-capped mountains are visible under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid in the center.

**experience: LIAISON**



SEATTLE | FEBRUARY 15-16, 2023



# Be Honest: Why Do You Care About Data?

● ● ● ● ●  
Jeff Morgan

---

experience: **LIAISON** 

SEATTLE | FEBRUARY 15-16, 2023

# Presenter



**Jeff Morgan**  
*Product Manager*



# 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?**



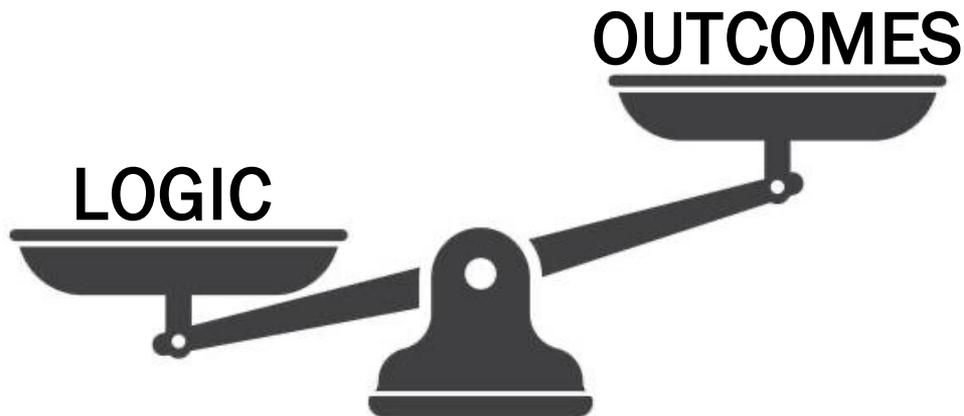
# One *Honest* Reason



*“...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

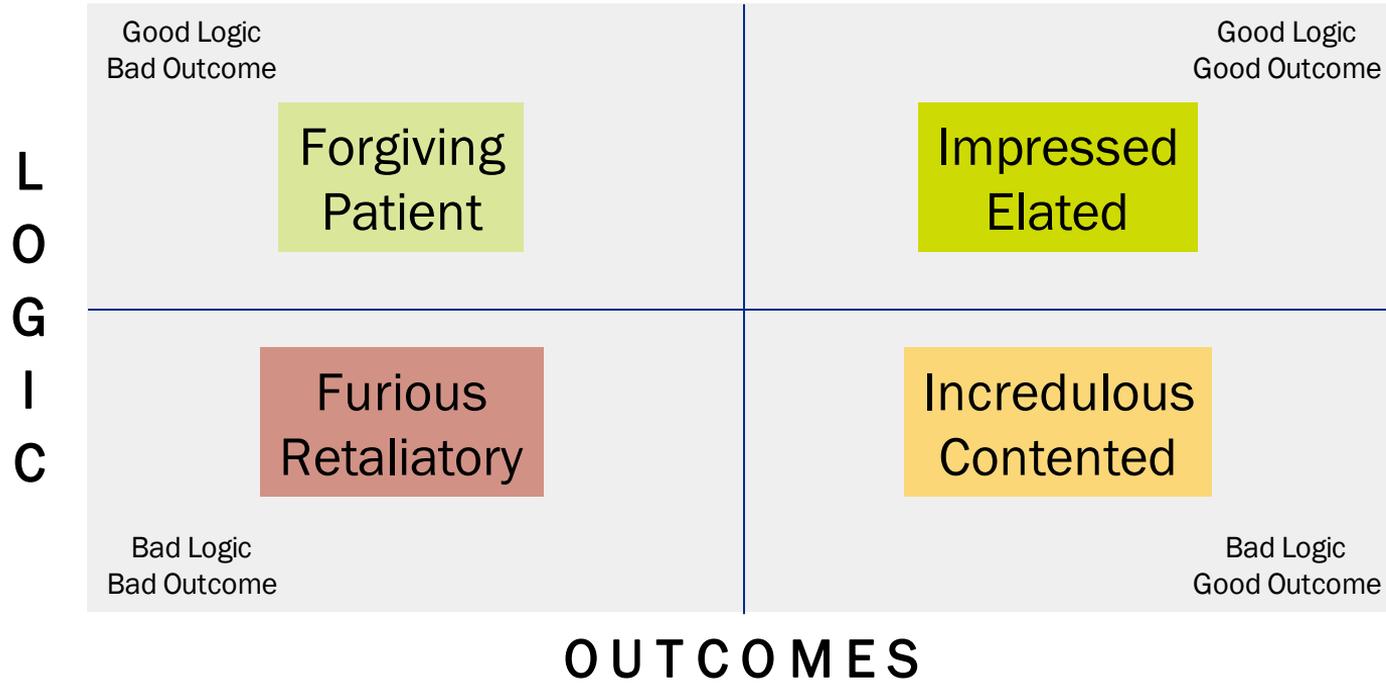


L  
O  
G  
I  
C

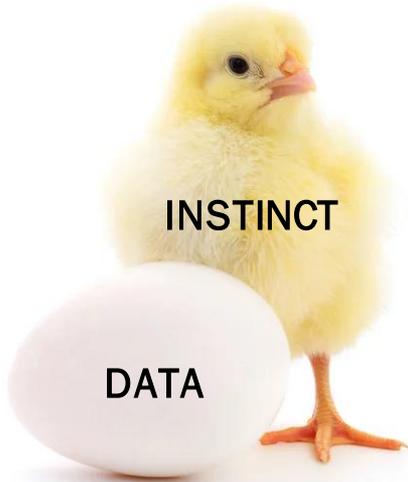
Good Logic Bad Outcome	Good Logic Good Outcome
Bad Logic Bad Outcome	Bad Logic Good Outcome

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



experience: **LIAISON** 

SEATTLE | FEBRUARY 15-16, 2023

# Thank You



**Jeff Morgan**

[jmorgan@liaisonedu.com](mailto:jmorgan@liaisonedu.com)

**othot**<sup>SM</sup>  
by **LIAISON** 