

Here's a simple and effective **Introduction to Data Literacy** lesson plan, ideal for middle school, high school, or early college students. It can be adjusted based on time (typically 45–60 minutes) and prior student knowledge.

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## **Lesson Plan: Introduction to Data Literacy**

**Grade Level:** Middle School / High School / Early College

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Topic:** Introduction to Data Literacy

**Objective:**

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand what data is and why it matters.
  - Identify different types of data (qualitative vs quantitative).
  - Interpret basic data visualizations (charts, graphs, tables).
  - Recognize the importance of data in decision-making.
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## **Materials Needed**

- Projector or smartboard
  - Handouts with sample data and graphs
  - Internet access (optional)
  - Whiteboard and markers
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## **Lesson Outline**

### **1. Hook / Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)**

**Activity:** Ask students:

- "What's the last decision you made using data?"
- "Where do you see data in everyday life?"

Prompt short responses to generate discussion. Show a fun example—like how Netflix recommends shows or how sports stats are used.

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### **2. What Is Data? (10 minutes)**

#### **Mini-Lecture + Discussion**

- Define **data**: “Facts and statistics collected for analysis.”
  - Types of data:
    - **Qualitative**: Descriptive (e.g., colors, names, categories)
    - **Quantitative**: Numerical (e.g., age, height, number of followers)
  - Where data comes from: surveys, sensors, apps, websites
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### 3. Data in the Real World (10 minutes)

**Activity:** Show examples of how data is used:

- Infographics (e.g., social media usage, COVID-19 stats, sports performance)
  - Ask: “What story does this data tell?”
  - Let students pair up and analyze one example briefly.
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### 4. Reading Charts and Graphs (15 minutes)

**Interactive Exercise**

- Provide students with a handout or display:
    - Bar chart
    - Line graph
    - Pie chart
  - Ask guiding questions:
    - What is the trend?
    - What stands out?
    - What conclusions can we draw?
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### 5. Data Ethics & Critical Thinking (10 minutes)

**Discussion**

- Talk about privacy: How is your data collected online?
  - Misleading data: Can charts lie?
  - Encourage healthy skepticism.
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## **6. Wrap-Up / Assessment (5 minutes)**

**Exit Ticket:** Students write down:

- One new thing they learned
  - One question they still have
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### **Optional Extensions**

- Have students collect data from their classmates (e.g., favorite color, hours of sleep) and make a simple graph.
- Introduce basic tools like Google Sheets or Excel.