

# Plan B

In the real world, people who start on statistical studies work for a university. They write up the Problem and Plan phase, submit it and receive a huge research grant. Then, they spend years collecting the data and analyzing it.

A grade 12 Data Management Project is not like that. The semester ends in January and you aren't getting any money to take time off school. That being said, starting with your question doesn't always work. If you have a great problem idea and you can't find any data, you are going to need to take another approach.

Plan B's Steps:

- Start with a Data Set – Find a giant list of numbers on line.
- Put them in a spreadsheet. Save it. Show Ms. Gorski
- Develop your problem questions based on the data.

For example:

The Journal of Statistics Educators has a data archive which has good examples:  
[http://jse.amstat.org/jse\\_data\\_archive.htm](http://jse.amstat.org/jse_data_archive.htm)

Specifically: You find this data set:

[vlt.dat.txt](#)  
[vlt.txt](#)

NAME: Video Lottery Terminal Data  
TYPE: Random Sample  
SIZE: 345 observations, 5 variables

The [article associated with this dataset](#) appears in the *Journal of Statistics Education*, Volume 3, Number 2 (July 1995).

VARIABLE DESCRIPTIONS:

The first three columns of the dataset record the objects observed in the three windows. The fourth column records the prize awarded, and the fifth column indicates the night the sample was obtained. Values are delimited by blanks; note that columns are not aligned.

```
2 0 0 0 1
0 5 1 0 1
0 0 0 0 1
2 0 0 0 1
0 0 0 0 1
0 0 1 0 1
1 0 1 0 1
0 0 0 0 1
1 2 1 5 1
0 0 1 0 1
7 2 2 0 1
0 7 0 0 1
1 0 6 2 1
1 2 1 5 1
1 0 7 0 1
0 2 0 0 1
```

and so on for a total of 345 lines.

So, you decide to investigate lotteries and their fairness.

Places to look for data:

- Sports Statistics
- Data Archives
- Gaming Statistics
- Gaming Summaries (eg. Pokedex info)
- Self-tracking devices (eg. Phone, Fit Bit)

My advice: If you are having troubles, don't start with the topic, start with the data.