

## Step Two: Explore

**The purpose:** Generate priority observations or fact statements about the data that reflect the best thinking of the group.

The steps include:

1. Interact with the data (highlighting, creating graphical representations, reorganizing)
2. Look for patterns, trends, things that pop out
3. Brainstorm a list of facts (observations)
4. Prioritize observations
5. Turn observations into priority needs

**Avoid:** Statements that use the word “because” or that attempt to identify the causes of data trends.

### Sentence starters:

It appears . . . I see that . . . It seems . . . The data shows . . .

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