



Alteryx Academy Weekly Challenge Prep Guide

Revision	Date
1.0	February 2, 2023
1.1	March 27, 2023
1.2	July 3, 2023

Weekly Challenge Goals

The Weekly Challenge was created for our learners and users to:

- Put their skills to the test.
- Collaborate with other challengers.
- Share answers and knowledge.
- Get badges for participation.

What to Include in Your Submission

Your Weekly Challenge submission should include the following:

- Any input data that needs to be used to solve the challenge; please credit its source
- Your solution as a YXZP file, including the input data files
- A description of the challenge, the main subject, certification level, and level of difficulty

Challenge Creation Steps

Follow these steps to create your Weekly Challenge:

1. Find a data source (The file cannot be more than 7 MB.)
2. Think of a challenge that your dataset can help answer.
3. Write the challenge description.
4. Create your workflow, ensuring it comprehensively addresses all the objectives or questions specified in the description.
5. Select the main subject of the challenge. Examples include Data Preparation, Data Analysis, Transform, Reporting, Macros, Join, Parse, or Spatial.
6. Select a certification level:
Foundation
Core
Advanced
Expert
7. Select a level of difficulty: Basic, Intermediate, or Difficult. (More information is provided on the levels in the next section of the document.)
8. Use this [form](#) to submit your completed workflow, description, input files, and output files.

Difficulty Levels

- **Basic:** The Basic level encompasses challenges with a workflow solution that includes basic tools and configurations within that topic. A person who has not used the tools before should be able to complete the challenge with some assistance from Help resources. For example, a Spatial Analysis basic challenge might require the user to perform basic spatial analysis such as creating points, finding the area of polygons, or calculating the distance between points. Use this label for all Foundation Micro-Credential challenges.

- **Intermediate:** The Intermediate level should include challenges with a workflow solution that uses moderately complex tools and configurations within that topic. A person who is familiar with the topic and has moderate experience with some of the tools in that area should be able to complete the challenge with minimal assistance from Help resources. For example, a Spatial Analysis intermediate challenge might require the user to build a spatial object, create a trade area, or find the nearest points. In this scenario, a user without the prerequisite knowledge of creating points would struggle to complete the challenge.
- **Difficult:** A challenge is rated as difficult if it has a solution workflow that is complex and requires the user to navigate tool configurations that may be outside the normal scope of the tool. Users without in-depth experience and knowledge in the topic will not be able to complete the challenge without using solutions from others. For example, a Spatial Analysis difficult challenge might require the user to use spatial tools in creative ways to split or combine spatial objects. In this scenario, a user without an understanding of spatial processes or various kinds of spatial objects would struggle to complete the challenge.

Data

- The input file cannot be more than 7 MB.
- You must cite the source of any input data. Include any authors, URLs, or information to explain the source of the data.
- The data source **must not** contain personally identifiable information (PII). If you have any question about whether the data is private, either find a way to anonymize the values (such as add an ID with the Record ID tool) or choose another dataset.
- Ensure the data source is not copyrighted.
- Remove unnecessary columns or rows.
- Or create your own dataset, as described in the next section.

Data Sources

Websites that you can use to find data include:

- www.kaggle.com
- <https://data.world>

Or, if you prefer, you can use one of the following websites to create your own data:

- <https://www.fakenamegenerator.com/order.php>
- <https://www.generatedata.com/>
- <https://mockaroo.com/>
- <https://www.onlinedatagenerator.com/>

Additional sources for data include local or national government and agency websites, and the installed datasets provided in Alteryx Designer.

Workflow Tips

The workflow you provide becomes the answer key for the Weekly Challenge.

The following are tips to prepare the workflow:

- Do not overcomplicate the workflow.
- Use Annotation as well as the Container and Comment tools to explain what you did.
- Call out the desired outputs and the answers.
- Your file must include the input data and the solution.
- When using an Input Data tool, make sure you go to Options, Advanced Options, Workflow Dependences, and select the **All Relative** button. Then select **OK**.
- Package your workflow and input datasets as a .yxzp file.

What Not to Include

Currently, we are not accepting challenges that use Predictive tools.

Description

Once you have created your challenge and workflow, you can write the challenge description and objectives. Do not try to do this before you create the workflow. It usually ends poorly!

Remember that the description is what the users have to solve the challenge, so be detailed and specific when you describe what you want them to do. If you want them to use a certain tool or strategy, then you need to state that in the description. Also let them know if the problem can be solved in multiple ways beyond the solution you provide.

Follow these steps as you write the description:

1. Give context for the challenge and include a teaser. What is the situation the user is faced with? What is the task at hand? For the teaser, write a short sentence that will grab their interest.
2. Briefly explain your data. What does the dataset contain? Explain the contents of multiple datasets, if applicable.
3. State the question(s) clearly. What is the user trying to determine?

After you write the description, review your data to determine if the information provided in the dataset aligns with the description. You may have to remove columns or rows in the dataset.

Weekly Challenge Inspiration

Do you remember when you first started with Designer? What things would have been helpful to know how to do?

Which tools made you scratch your head? Do you know of an issue from a user that you could use?

Check the articles in the community forum or review other challenges to think of something new.

And finally, keep it simple. If you would like to create a Weekly Challenge, but do not have a specific idea yet, think about challenges that could be written during the year around any of these topics:

- Holidays
- Seasonal activities
- Sports
- Geography
- Travel

Thanks for reading all the way through. We are excited to receive your entertaining and informative challenges!