

# An Examination of Tableau as a Supplement to Excel to Enhance Data Literacy Skills

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## Abstract

Data literacy has become a much sought after skill by organizations as the importance of data driven decision making continues to rise in importance. This study explores the teaching of Tableau as a supplement to Excel to enhance the data literacy skills of students. Twenty eight students taking an introductory course in Business Analytics and Information Systems completed a series of five tasks in both Excel and Tableau and answered a two question survey on their perceptions of the relative ease of use and ability to produce correct and visually pleasing results for Tableau versus Excel. An assessment of the results showed that Tableau submissions produced higher scores in terms of correctness and more professionally formatted visualizations. Student survey responses also supported a significant preference for Tableau over Excel in terms of both ease of use and ability to produce correct results.

**Keywords:** Tableau, Excel, Data Literacy, Analytics, Data Visualization.

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