# DECISION TREE PROTOCOL (DTP)

Taking data is important, but it needs to be analyzed to be useful! The Decision Tree Protocol can be used by anyone looking at progress data to determine when a change needs to be made to further learning or progress towards a goal. Two important definitions to know before we begin are:

- Data Paths – line between two consecutive data points
- Trend Line – in general, a straight line that comes into contact with as many of the data points as possible, indicating general increase or decrease in performance
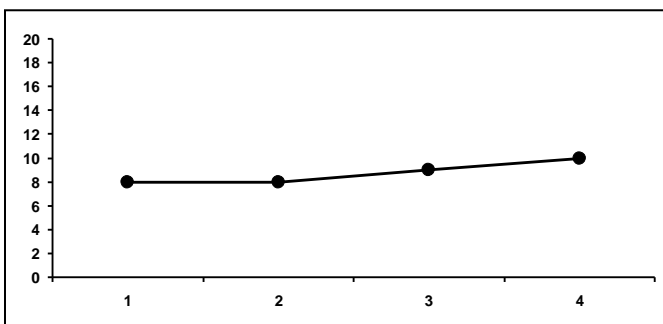
So when looking at graphed data, you can look to see if data paths are ascending, no change, or descending to determine if you should CONTINUE the current strategy/teaching, MONITOR closely, or STOP/CHANGE what you're doing to make the strategy/teaching more effective.
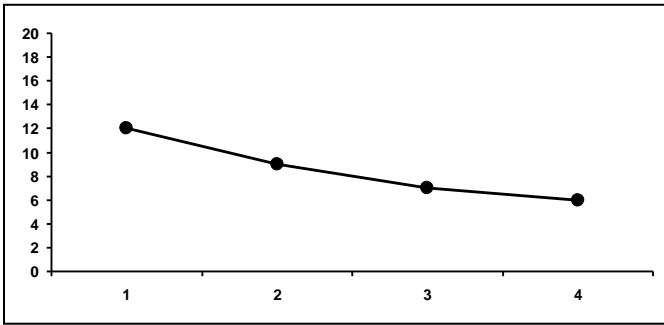
magic numbers = 3 & 5
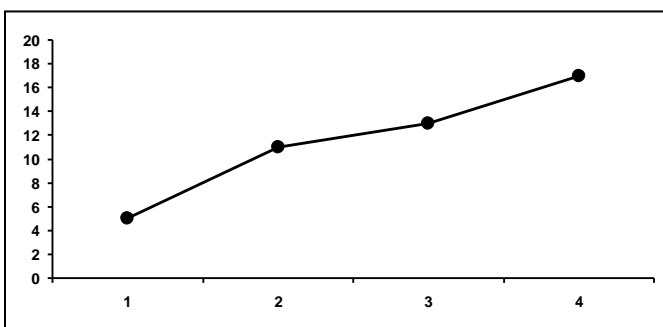
3 Ascending Data Paths!

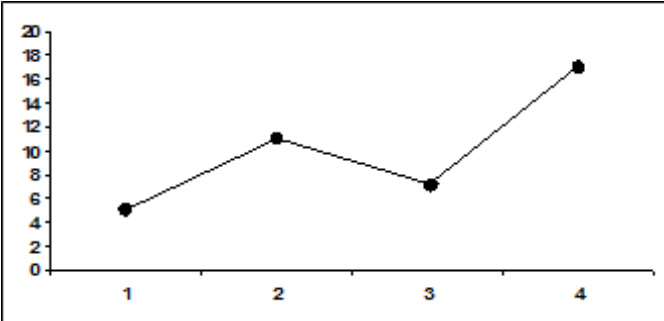CONTINUE! What you're doing is working!

3 Data Paths, no significant change!

STOP/CHANGE! Nothing is happening! The data shows what we are doing is not working.
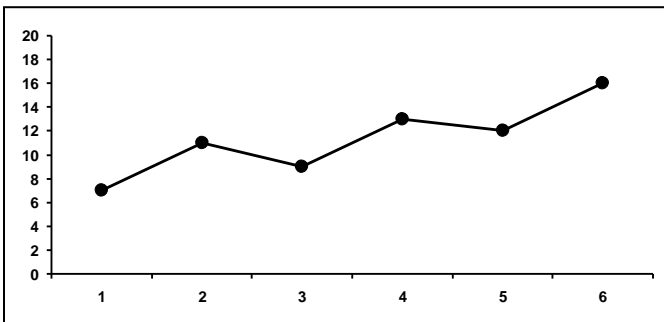
3 Descending Data Paths!

STOP/CHANGE! Performance is getting worse! We need a new strategy!
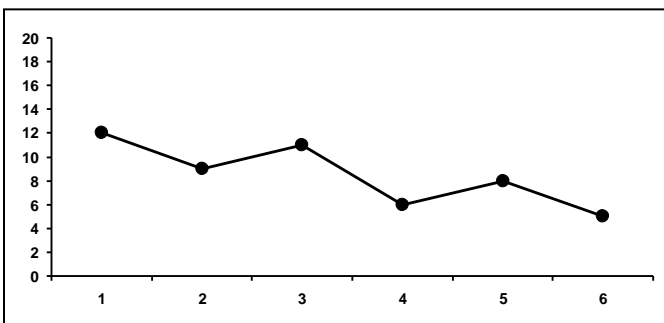
3 Variable Data Paths!

MONITOR!! Performance is up and down. We need to move to 5 data paths to decide what to do next.

FROM MONITOR to ACTION!

5 Data Paths! POSITIVE TREND!

CONTINUE! Trend line shows an increase in performance!

5 Data Paths! NEGATIVE or NO TREND!

STOP/CHANGE! Trend line shows a decrease or no change in performance!