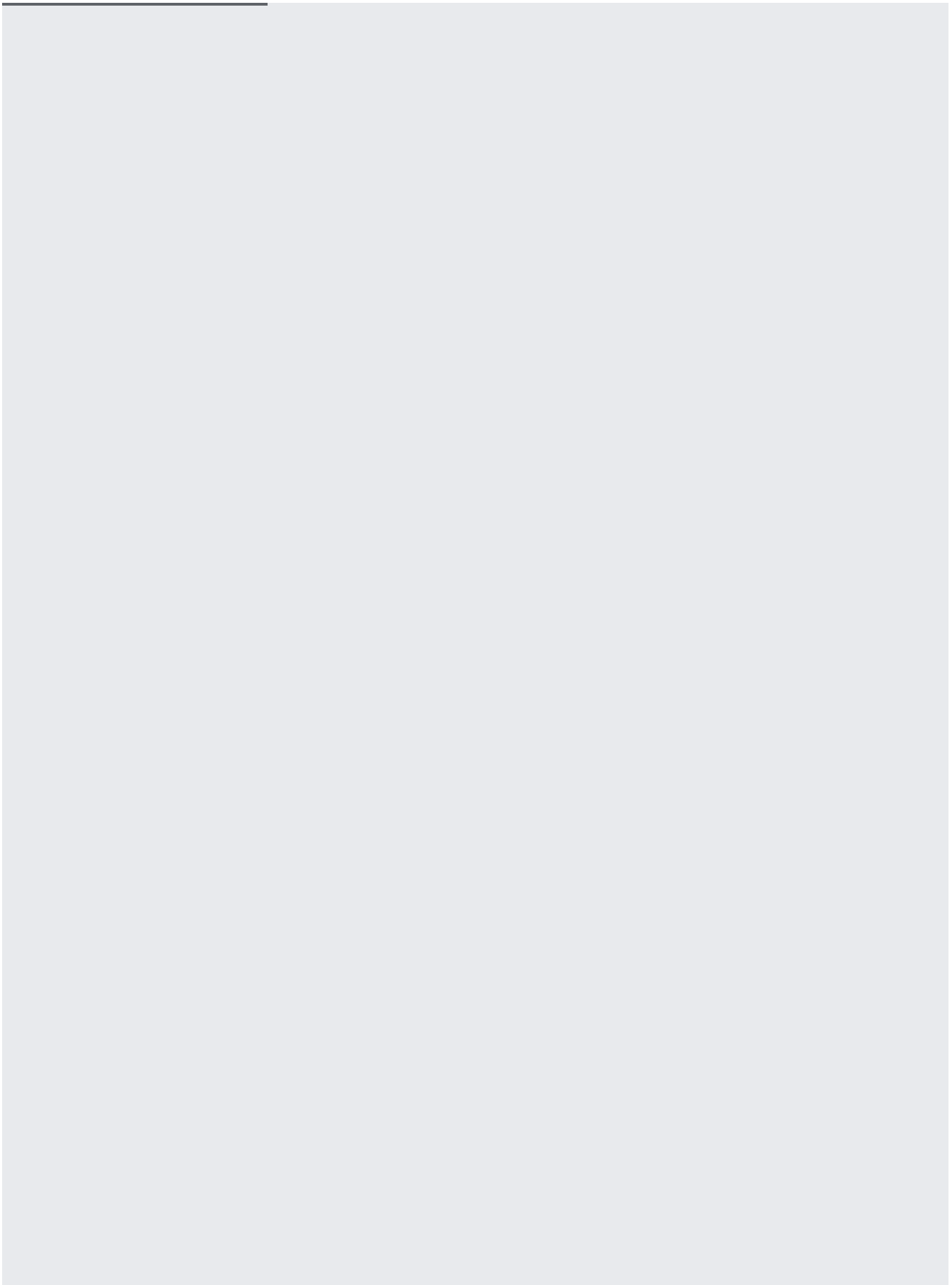


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Which method you choose to access public data depends on how you want to work with the data. When accessing public data via the [Google Cloud Console](https://console.cloud.google.com/) (<https://console.cloud.google.com/>), you must authenticate with Google. You can authenticate with any Google account; the account does not have to be associated with the project that contains the public data, nor does it need to be signed up for the Cloud Storage service.

By contrast, accessing public data with [gsutil](#) ([/storage/docs/gsutil](#)) or a Cloud Storage API link does not require authentication. These methods are suited for general-purpose links to publicly shared data. For example, an API link can be used in a web page, with [client libraries](#) ([/storage/docs/reference/libraries](#)), or with a command-line tool such as cURL.

**To access public data:**



- Learn how to [publicly share an object](/storage/docs/access-control/making-data-public) (/storage/docs/access-control/making-data-public).
- Learn about options to [control access](/storage/docs/access-control) (/storage/docs/access-control) to your data.
- Control access to your data [using Cloud IAM permissions](/storage/docs/access-control/using-iam-permissions) (/storage/docs/access-control/using-iam-permissions).
- [Download objects](/storage/docs/downloading-objects) (/storage/docs/downloading-objects) from a bucket.