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MIS 505

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Module 6 Reflection

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This week provided a great opportunity to branch-out on our own with a number of different real-life examples. It was helpful that each assignment contained a general outline of the research question at hand. I also liked that each case study was a relatively small data set, which made it easier to determine which fields to examine. My favorite assignment was the most challenging one: Presidential Polling. I feel as though I’ve become faster at determining which visualizations to use in different scenarios. My main challenge this week was trying to wrangle Tableau into doing what I had in my head.

The overall pace of this class has been really great, and it led us to this week’s slew of assignments. I took the advice of working on two per day. What I actually ended up doing was starting the preparatory charts/graphs on two-a-day, and then circling back to all of them to revise and focus the story. I worked at them this way in order to avoid spending too much time on a single one. I found that my mind was working on them when I was away from the computer or as I slept, which was all very helpful in managing the tasks.

The Presidential Polling assignment was a bit trickier than the others, since the data set was not as cut-and-dry. I explored different filter options on this assignment, especially with the respondents’ voter registration statuses and pollster grades. I also tried to examine this assignment’s data in a couple of different contexts and over different periods of time. I feel like this was helpful, since we are not as likely to find pristine data sets in the wild.

All in all, this week was a success. Time management was critical; that’s not even considering the uncertainty, distraction, and day-long power outage from Hurricane Isaias! I am encouraged to see my growth during this class, and I am looking forward to our final week.