Final Project Write-Up

My project intention was to create a program that could help me research the correlation between news headlines and changes in the stock market. In our world where information travels almost instantly, news and stocks can change hands rapidly. Seeing as stocks change in price due to real world events, my hypothesis is that headlines cause noticeable changes in the stock market. I designed my program with the goal of displaying stock prices and related headlines, for observation and analysis. My project was fairly successful in this goal. I was able to write a program that scraped news headlines, determined if they related to a company, and displayed the headline in context with the stock prices. I was able to graph it, thereby observing qualitative differences in stock prices. But to get quantitative data, the user would have to actually look in the data files, text documents, to see the exact prices of stock around the time of headline posting. This is an additional step, but I do not think it is so difficult that it renders my project useless. If someone else wanted to use my software they will need to know some python and be familiar with my code. In order to add more companies or news sites you would have to edit the data collection python file. The variables are clearly labeled and named, but it would still require editing the source code. To actually run the program, you would need to run the dataStore file with the store() function. That will create text files with information for graphing. To graph the data, you need to run the grapher program. Furthermore, if someone wanted quantitative data they would have to look in the text file created by the data collection file, as I mentioned before. I do not think either of these things would be very big issues for users of my software however, because of the nature of the program; it is built for research and researchers are usually able to get technical.