**Self-assessment from Ken Akerman**

I would like to thank my teammates for their assistance on the project, as I never would have been able to complete the project on my own. The final project was the part of the course that left me with the greatest amount of anxiety. I would have had no idea what to do for the final project had I been required to find and develop my own topic.

As we were approaching the end of the module assignments, I expressed my thoughts to Eric and explained that I did not know what to do for the final project. The 19 modules directly and explicitly presented the steps that we needed to do to complete the challenge assignments to earn the maximum grade. When I got stuck on a part of a module challenge and needed help, I contacted Eric or Peter, contacted AskBCS Learning Assistants, or scheduled a session with my tutor. Fortunately, I found an excellent tutor, Jamie Miller of Richmond, VA.

In my opinion, I probably reached out for assistance more than most other people in the class, who undoubtedly knew how to do programming and data analysis better than I could do. Putting in time and effort and seeking assistance helped me earn a score of 100 on 17 of the challenges, but in many ways, I don’t really feel too proud of the way I earned these 100 scores. I wish I could have completed my work without seeking as much assistance. Successful data analysts and programmers working at high-paying jobs must work independently and can’t run off to find someone to help them too frequently when they get stuck on something.

When it came time for the final project, I was very fearful that I would never be able to complete the project as I had no idea what to do. This reveals a major fault that I have in my personality and intellectual expertise. While I can complete work where the processes and procedures are explained precisely and I have means to acquire assistance when I have trouble figuring something out, I have difficulty coming up with new and creative ideas on my own. For example, I had no idea that so many people have been using data science to study components of music. This is something that I wish I could have come up with on my own. Developing my creatively and becoming a more independent person are things that I wish could be part of my life.

Fortunately, I was able to connect with Mohamed, Huzeyfe, and Kevin on this project team to use data analysis techniques to predict the factors that most influence the popularity of music. The other three guys provided most of the brains to the project, and in my opinion, they did most of the actual real work. Since I couldn’t provide as much coding or data analytics expertise, I did my best to incorporate their data into a presentation. While my level of participation was not the most optimal, I hope I did well enough to complete this bootcamp successfully and earn my certificate.