Jack Driscoll **3/20/22**

Info 4602 **HW #4**

Interview Notes:

Nate Bjdstrom Interview:

Nate snowboards every day. This task involves a lot of different aspects. One of which is travelling to and from the mountains

- What is one task they do that might benefit from visualization?
  - Nate snowboards
- How often do they do task?
  - During the winter, Nate snowboards about once a week.
  - Nate almost exclusively snowboards on the weekends.
- Where do they do task?
  - Goes to copper mostly and Eldora sometimes
  - 90% copper 10%eldorda
  - Nate does backflips 100% of the time
- Why do they do task?
  - Nate loves to snowboard for a variety of reasons
  - Its fun
  - It gives him confidence
  - Time in nature
  - Socialization time
  - Exercise
  - It also often provides him with an adrenaline rush, which is unique to snowboarding. He doesn't get the "rush" in nearly any other task in his life.
- What data do they use to perform the task?
  - Uses weather reports
  - Weather, sun exposure
  - Traffic data/travel time
  - Snow conditions
  - Crowds/liftline times
  - Nate's personal stats
  - Social data – who else might be going to the mountain that day
  - OF this data – by far the most important variables are weather and traffic, and weather is the most important
  - (maybe can plot 2d vis)
- How do they perform the task now, when they don't have a visualization?
  - Nate uses a variety of different tools.
  - He tracks the weather on one app.
  - Uses texting and social media to coordinate with his friends
  - Uses a specific snow tracker

- Uses common sense and experience to estimate lift lines and crowds
- Uses car app (apple maps, waze) to track traffic patterns and estimated time of travel to the mountain
- Nate would benefit from all this information in one place, perhaps a visualization dashboard would do the trick.

Description of the Task:

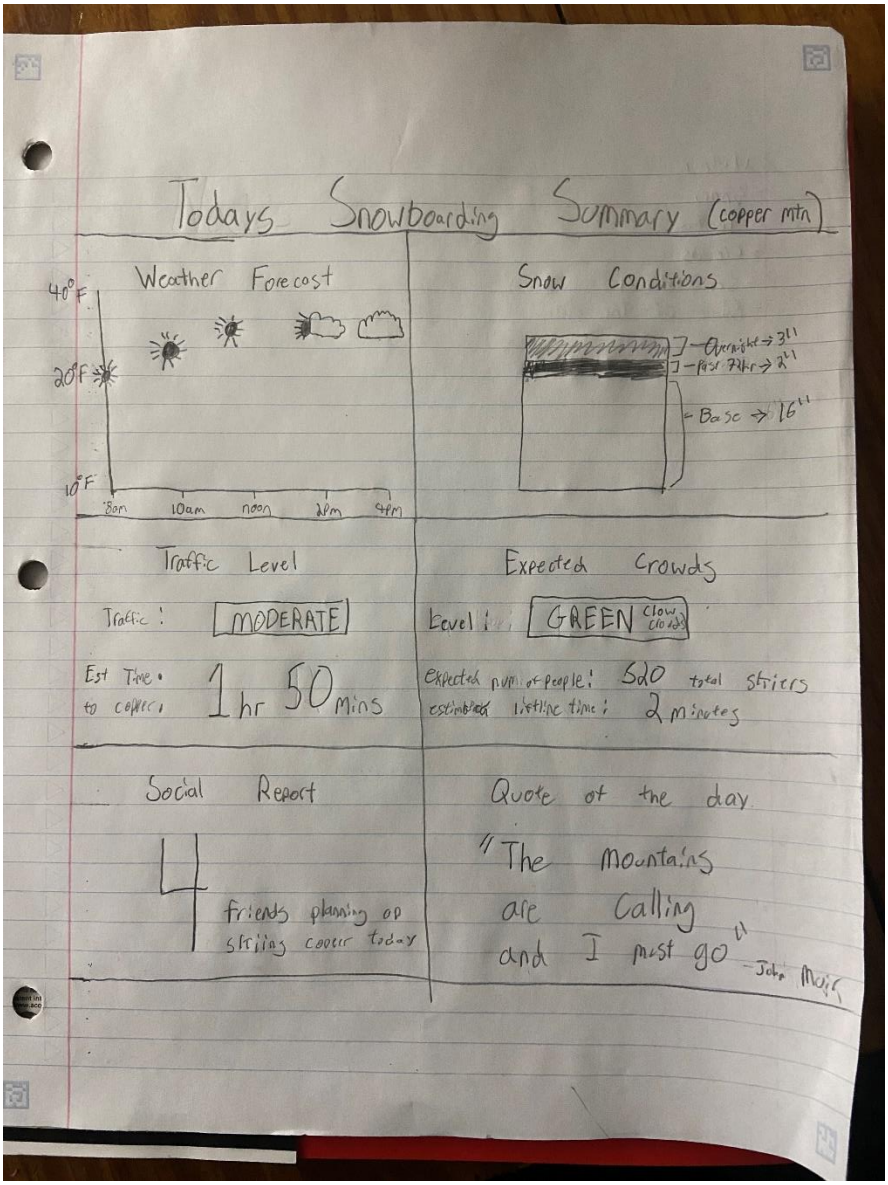
I wanted to be creative in using a common task/activity for my visualizations but the task itself is commonly understood. Therefore, I doubt that me describing the task of recreational snowboarding will take up an entire page – but I will try to describe it in as much relevant detail as I find necessary.

Nate snowboards on average once a week during the winter. This task involves many factors, and Nate considers a lot of information every time he drives up to the mountains. His busy school schedule is his primary concern when choosing when he can go, but he also relies on other information, such as weather, snow conditions, crowds, traffic, and which/how many of his friends are going. Nate then makes a simple choice, to go or not go, to commit to a day of snowboarding in sacrifice of productivity, rest, or socialization in boulder. Nate indicated that it would be helpful for him to see more of the information pertinent to snowboarding in one place, making it easier for him to decide if and when he should go snowboarding.

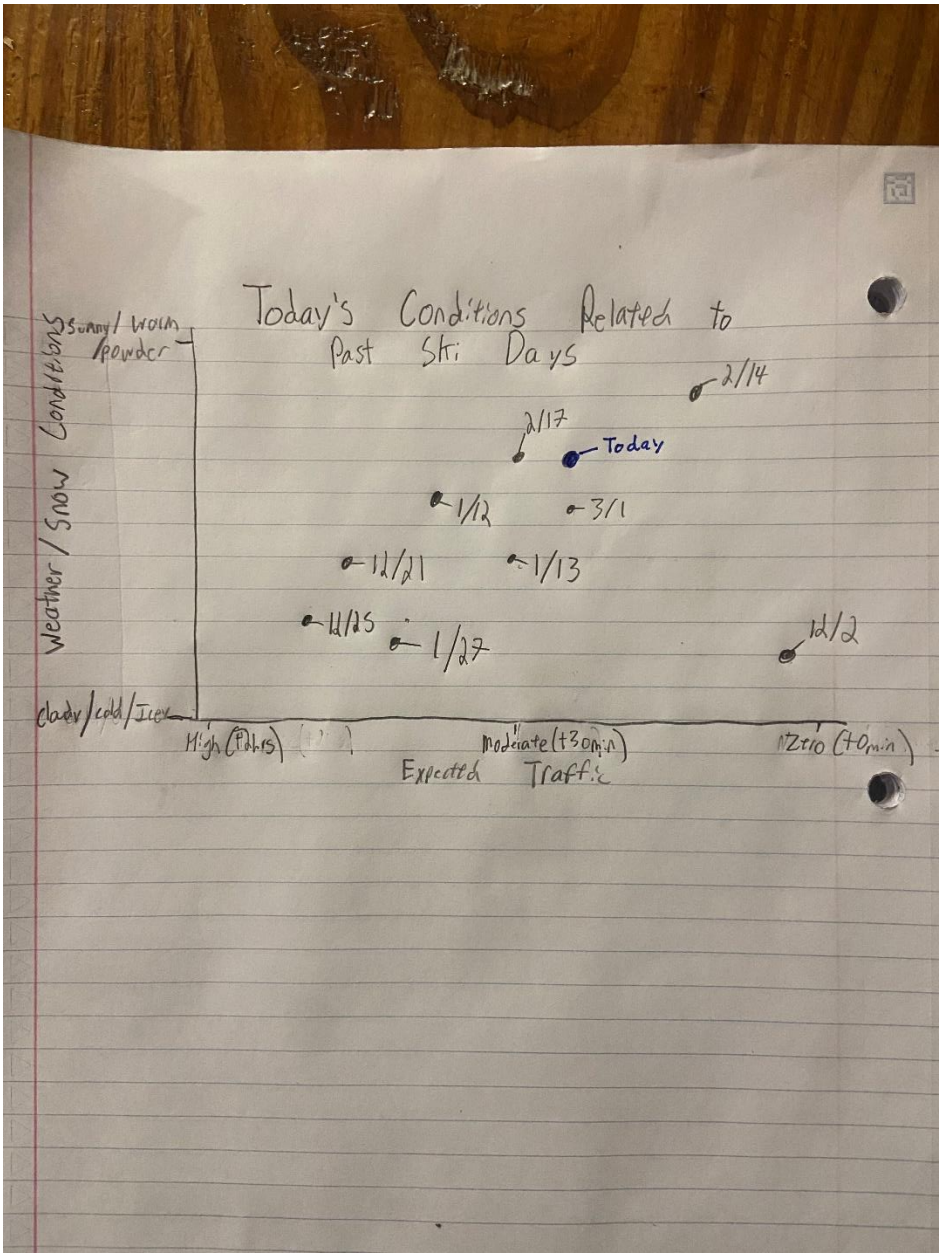
Sketches:

For my first sketch, I designed a dashboard for Nate, which uses 5 unique factors in its visualization.

C:\Users\jackm\Downloads\IMG-1906.jpg



For my second sketch, I designed a more feasabile visualization in which I plot the expected conditions for “today” alongside conditions of past days Nate has ridden. I considered the two most important factors for Nate, which are weather conditions and traffic. On the x, I plot traffic levels from high traffic to low traffic. On the Y, I used a combined score of sunshine, temperature, and snow conditions for a total “weather condition” score.



Reflection:

After showing Nate my sketches, he responded positively overall. He really loved the dashboard design and was surprised that something like that didn't already exist. He asked if it was possible for me to make something like that, which I told him was unlikely given my skills and the data currently available to me. I told him that the second sketch was a feasible visualization that I could create with available and accessible data. He told me that it was somewhat hard for him to read the chart before I explained the axis to him, which makes me want to include a detailed description of what he was looking at either above or below the sketch. I think also the combination of three factors into the single axis of "weather conditions" is confusing to some people and would be difficult to score, given skiers and snowboarders weight snowfall, temperature, and sun differently depending on preference. In the future, I would maybe have to use only one factor or perhaps customize the scale based on the preference of the audience.