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Capstone I

Dr. Mettu

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Milestone I Project Proposal (Rough Draft)

1. **OUR PROBLEM**

Our project isto find trends in the music industry during the pandemic. Sadly, due to the lockdowns, many people found themselves feeling lonely and living in a more depressed state than what they would normally experience. Given this, we predict that a shift in music trends may be visible, and perhaps lean towards music that aligns with certain feelings. We know that ourselves, along with many of our friends, coped with their negative feelings via this medium. We may be able to find data sets that could work well with this from popular streaming platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, Youtube Music, etc.). We hope to find data sets with dates, which will help us find shifts in popular genres for users and for populations as a whole. Another type of data set that could blend well with this information would be the amount of people seeking professional mental health help. If this information is hard to come by, an anonymous public survey, asking if people have reached out to mental health professionals due to the pandemic and time estimates of when they did, could help us generate more data points. Our final product will be a nicely laid out Jupyter Notebook, which will portray our findings so that a reader can easily comprehend the analysis.

1. **PREVIOUS WORK**

Based on our research, we were not able to find exact replications of what we are trying to accomplish. What we did find are similar studies that aim to answer a related question: *Can Music Technologies Help The Mental Health Pandemic? LINK:* [*https://medicalfuturist.com/music-and-the-mental-health-pandemic/*](https://medicalfuturist.com/music-and-the-mental-health-pandemic/)

Most of these studies have all come to the same conclusion: music can very much alleviate feelings of anxiety and depression, especially when there is very little recourse in socializing with friends and family. So, while our exact analysis has not been performed previously, similar research has been conducted.

1. **UNIQUE APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM**

What makes our approach unique is the ability to distinguish trends, find specific points to analyze further, and extrapolate information about the music industry *particularly during the pandemic*. A possible use of our analysis is gaining a deeper understanding of how people's mental health problems relate to the music they listen to, and vice versa. In turn, music streaming services can perhaps direct (or maybe just politely suggest) the listener towards some sort of help. While there are many people for whom this information won’t apply to, it could get them thinking about their own listening patterns and visualize the bigger picture. And for those who could use any kind of help, it provides a more accessible avenue to do so - rather than carrying out the daunting task of searching for help yourself.

1. **FEASIBILITY**

If we find enough usable data, we believe that exploring different avenues to analyze trends in the music industry will be very feasible. Looking at past Capstone projects, we saw past groups carry out projects in a similar fashion - analyzing data sets and trends in various subject areas.

1. **ROLES**

We plan on having a very even split of the work and both equally dividing up the research of obtaining data sets along with analyzing. Ultimately, a majority of the work will be done together when it comes time to analyze our data and distinguish trends in the music industry. We have worked on many projects together in various courses before, and looking forward to working with each other again.