The Challenges We've Faced, and What We've Learned Along the Way

Challenges:

- Clashing coding styles:
  - We all have our own distinct coding styles, so it can be hard to tell why a person has coded something the way they have. It can also be difficult to integrate or consolidate each other's code together in one place.
- Getting everyone together in one room outside of class:
  - We all have different schedules so outside of that 50 minute interval that class takes place it can be very difficult for all 5 members to have the same time to meet. Not all members live in Fort Collins, so location can be an issue sometimes as well.
- Learning about different diagrams
  - Since, we did not have lot of background about drawing diagrams such as domain model, and sequence diagram, it took lot of reading and talking with the professor to get where we needed to be.
- Connecting Games Across Multiple Machines
  - It was difficult to connect games across networks because our team had limited experience with it. We found that in order for games to be played across multiple machines, all database calls needed to be made by the server, never the clients. This required us to do significant refactoring. Also, CSU's network is finicky, so we found out that if the server is running on the CSU network, then the clients must also be on the CSU network.

The Takeaway:

- Communication:
  - This is possibly the most important aspect of a team project. Because it can be challenging to get everyone together in one spot it is imperative to stay in contact with each other to keep updates about progress and direction.
- Testing Testing Testing:
  - Both jUnit testing and GUI testing is very important. We were aware that this is very necessary, but it became very apparent while working with a 5 man team. When one person would test they might see that what they wrote works, but what they might not see is how it affects someone else's code. We learned that with each addition of code, everyone needed to retest their code to make sure it all worked.

- Articulation and Presentation:
  - It is also very important to be clear about what you are trying to present. We learned that people will interpret your words differently than you may mean for them to. To help with this it important to be clear and precise but also try to see things from their perspective to understand what they are thinking vs what you are saying.
- Time management:
  - We learned just how difficult we make things by finishing up on the day of the presentation. Though we try not to, we always seemed to be finishing up certain things last second and it takes away from preparation.