**Discussion 6.1 – Engineering, Integration, and Reliability in Meta-Model Forecasting Systems**

1. **Stacked Generalization and Model Choice**  
   *The meta-model uses Ridge regression to blend base model predictions with sentiment features. What factors make Ridge a suitable choice in this context, and under what conditions might you replace it with a non-linear ensemble method (e.g., gradient boosting)? How would you validate that the change improves both accuracy and stability?*
2. **Feature Contracts and Inference Consistency**  
   *The pipeline enforces a strict ordering and naming of input features to prevent drift between training and inference. In a production setting with frequent base model retraining, what versioning, testing, and automation strategies would you design to ensure feature contract integrity across the system’s lifecycle?*
3. Using .fit() to Train the Ridge Meta-Model

*When training the Ridge regressor with .fit(), what does this method do, and what information does it need to work correctly? Why is it important to prepare the input features carefully before calling .fit()?*

**Required:** Read all your peers' posts, then comment meaningfully on two or more.