Feedback for Project Number 09

## Instructions

Use the program below (beginning line 13) to figure out who you will be critiquing. You will critique two of your colleagues’ work and provide feedback for them to produce their best work. Remember this is to help them out so do not be mean, but also do not hold back. Be sure to highlight areas of success as equally as areas of failure. Use the template below the code to provide them this feedback. You can find the [project links here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZmjrUl3k0LIIJps8jqobH6rOiYHnJQzXTxdWzqs9cro/edit#gid=0)

**Be sure to change the name of the project in the title above and in the document title.** This is the project number you are critiquing and should be included in the output file so that the document name reads ‘Critique\_of\_Project##.docx’. Once you are finished, e-mail me both documents (one document per critique) and I will upload them to the ‘Peer\_Reviewed\_Work’ folder so that your peers can view them. Do not e-mail me the .Rmd file. These reviews are due by **Friday, March 25th at 5:30pm CST**. For ease you can use this markdown file to fill out your responses and knit which will produce a word document for you.

## Feedback Below

**What is their topic on?**

This project is trying to define what makes a literary work of art a “classic” – either through quantifying a variable or analyzing other aspects of each book. Their project title is “What makes a classic?” which conveys what the overall project is attempting to achieve.

**Are the objectives of the project clearly identifiable?**

The objective of this project was to determine if there is a variable that can be quantified deeming a literary book a classic; however, the presenter mentions that there are a lot of factors to account for that were unable to be analyzed due to data limitations that affected what was available to be scraped. Therefore, a word cloud composed of the most frequently appearing words in all known classics was used instead of any quantifiable data. The motivation behind this project was curiosity to the age-old question of why books are considered “classics”, and whether it can be determined if a current book will eventually fall into this classical literature category.

**What data are used?**

The website used in this project was www.gutenberg.org which is an online library from which the title and author were scraped from a table for each book of his classical literature sample. From there, he combined the contents of each work into one text file, cleaned the data by removing punctuation, numbers, articles, and common words that could be biased, and then filtered it to only contain words with a frequency of 50,000 or more. Once this was completed, a word cloud was created.

**What is your overall impression of the project?**

Overall, I really enjoyed the idea and thought behind the topic of the project. As an avid reader, I have also been curious as to what defines a classic. It was interesting to see what the most commonly used words were. The only main critique I have was the presentation of the data. The color scheme used on the two word clouds are a bit hard to read as they were mainly lighter colors in the yellow/green range. If this were to be presented again, a darker color should be used.

**Other encouragements/critiques you would like to provide to your colleague in order for them to have a more refined project.**

I understand that there were many limitations in what data could be scraped which is why quantifying only a single factor was challenging but, if this were to be repeated, it would be interesting to see if language, time period, societal meaning, and popularity could pose a factor to the research question. It would also be beneficial to increase the sample size and compare word clouds of different centuries if publication date could be taken into consideration.