Reflection

a) As a hypothetical software developer at Airbnb, I would enact a simple verification system that ensures the property associated with a listing has a valid policy number (and thus, a business license to operate a rental space) after each reservation to rent is made. In other words, every time a customer makes a reservation through airbnb.com, our system should verify that the rental listing has a valid policy number and business license, or else the reservation is canceled and the listing is temporarily removed from the site/database. This would protect Airbnb against any potential lawsuits, complaints, or other issues that may result due to illegal short-term rentals. One possible argument against using this system would be that it would actively reduce the amount of business taking place through Airbnb, as canceling reservations and removing listings takes money out of both Airbnb's and renters' pockets. Additionally, renters could work around this by contacting rentees directly without having to go through Airbnb and its hypothetical verification system. Another possible argument against this system would be that any potential bugs or flaws in our verification system could seriously damage Airbnb's reputation with loyal renters, as they may be irritated if a listing is wrongfully removed or if a "verified" listing receives a complaint for an invalid license.

b) Research Question: What is the effect of geographical region on housing insecurity for each of rented and owned homes in the US? (For example, are rented homes in the south more likely to be insecure than rented homes in the northeast, midwest, etc?)

c) One important factor to consider when discussing the legality of web scraping is whether the web scraping "'access[es] a computer without authorization' or in a manner that 'exceeds authorization,'" as this would be unlawful according to the Computer Fraud and

Abuse Act. Since this act is very vague, we have to ensure that we do not blatantly violate it, but many other web scraping rights are protected under things like the First Amendment. We should primarily emphasize more blatant CFAA violations, copyright infringements, and trespass to chattel.

d) One guideline we should always consider when deciding whether to use public data is whether or not the collection & analysis of this data is likely to lead to positive results for society. Before scraping public data, you should ask yourself, is there any societal good that can come from this, and does it outweigh any potential privacy issues that may arise? If the answer to either of these questions is "no," then the data should not be used. Another guideline would be to consider, as previously stated, whether the use of the data exceeds authorization or violates a website's terms of use/service. If the privacy issues that arise from the scraping of public data are unlawful or significantly problematic, then this is another reason not to use this data.