CS 224G Individual Insight Report
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Looking back on my time in CS 224G, I can't help but feel a mix of pride and gratitude. This 10-week rollercoaster ride has been a game-changer for me, both personally and professionally, and I'm so glad I was a part of it. It culminated in my ending up taking a leave from Stanford, but it all ends well.

One of the biggest things I took away from this experience was how important it is to be flexible and open to change. We started off with this idea called PharmD, thinking we were going to shake up the retail pharmacy world. But after doing a ton of research and really digging into the market, we realized that our original plan wasn't quite hitting the mark. That's when we decided to switch gears and focus on building an AI-powered mentor-matching platform instead. It was a tough call, but it taught me that sometimes you have to be willing to pivot when things aren't working out.

Working together with Dan, Aaron, and Andrew was one of the most fun things I've done throughout my entire college career. From hopping from pharmacy to pharmacy during our needfinding phase, to chugging red-bull to knockout our backend flask app in one night it was super fun. I really enjoyed the late night talks, system design whiteboard sessions, and camaraderie I experience when coding this project up.

Of course, it wasn't all smooth sailing. We definitely had our fair share of challenges, especially when it came to fine-tuning the backend and making sure our matching algorithm was on point. There was this one all-nighter that I'll never forget, where I was chugging Red Bull and completely in the zone, trying to fix this one stubborn issue. It was tough, but it taught me a lot about perseverance and pushing through when things get tough.

The concepts and ideas we covered in class were also a huge help when it came to building our platform. From prompt engineering to model evaluation and system design, every lesson felt like a new tool in our toolbox. It was really cool to see how we could take what we were learning and directly apply it to our project.

One thing I wish we had done better was managing our time and expectations, especially when we decided to pivot. It's easy to get caught up in the excitement of a new idea, but we definitely underestimated how much work it would take to get our mentor-matching platform to where we wanted it to be. In hindsight, we could have been more realistic about our timeline and what we could realistically accomplish given the constraints we were working with.

Looking back, I'm really proud of what we were able to achieve, even if our final product wasn't quite as polished as we had hoped. It was a reminder that sometimes the journey is just as important as the destination, and that there's always room for improvement and growth.

As I wrap up this reflection, I'm feeling energized and excited about the future. CS 224G has given me the skills, knowledge, and mindset I need to take on new challenges in the world of AI and product development. I'm grateful for everything I've learned, and I can't wait to see where this experience takes me next. I'm excited about my leave to go build some cool stuff, and I'm extremely excited to see how this class evolves over the years. Overall, I would finally like to extend my gratitude towards the course staff for such a lovely quarter!