**Week 1 Discussion**

What is your opinion on using packages? What constraints do you think you’re imposing on your code by using packages? How do you ensure that your code is reproducible when you are using multiple packages? Your response should be one to two paragraphs, and you need to cite each source. Please respond to three other student’s discussion board posts.

Regarding R, packages are typically considered ubiquitous and an essential component of any data scientist’s toolbox. Although there are many functions R is capable of without the use of packages, the embellishments and efficiency they can bring to everything from data analysis to visualization are unquestionable. However, the use of packages adds an additional layer of complexity, particularly regarding reproducibility. Anyone attempting to reproduce code that utilizes packages must ensure that those packages are installed and loaded properly before running the script. Incompatibilities can be introduced through package updates, and the version of packages can be noted to ensure that any future reproduction runs properly.

Additionally, packages occasionally must be loaded in a particular order when they contain functions with the same name. For example, when loading a package that defines the function “select()” and then another package that defines the same function, the function definition in the second package loaded will mask the definition in the original package. Which version of “select()” you wanted to use and when would then impact the order of packages loaded. Overall, packages are largely beneficial, and it’s important to know when and how to apply them to ensure that they are utilized to their full potential in a reproducible way.

Take this opportunity to tell the class about yourself, your reason for taking this class, and what you hope to get from taking the course. Pictures of yourself are encouraged so the professor and other students can know who they are corresponding with.

Intro:

Hi! My name is Adeline, but most people call me Addie. My undergraduate degree is in Environmental Science, where I studied aquatic ecology. However, instead of working on lakes as planned, I ended up working in the biotechnology field. After almost three years, I recently left my job in rapid diagnostics to move back home to the mountains of western Maine and pursue a degree in data science. I’m excited to build upon my programming skills and am particularly interested in the practical applications of the projects we’ll be completing in this class.

Outside of school and work, I love recreating in the mountains. I’m an avid rock climber, skier, and a member of my local ski patrol and wilderness rescue team. My biggest passion is mountain/trail running, which I’ve been doing competitively for a few years. Attached is a photo of me running in the mountains of Chamonix, France!