# Final Project:

This will be a semester-long project where you identify a real-world problem and analyze a corresponding data initiative. Your analysis will critically examine the effort through either the data feminist framework or other ethical lens, evaluating how data is collected, analyzed, and used to address the problem.

## General Guidelines

1. Please cite your sources! You are free to use any style guide you’d prefer (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE). I won’t be checking for total accuracy in the rules of your chosen guide.
2. Double-spaced, 11- or 12-point size, any clear to read font
3. Honor Code: Please do not copy directly from your group mates. You are encouraged to collaborate on researching, discussing, examining, coding, analyzing the sources – but please write up your written analysis yourself.

## Part 1: Project Proposal (Due Sunday March 2nd at 11:59 PM)

Objective: Identify a real-world problem and a corresponding data initiative that aims to address it. Provide an initial critical analysis of how power structures influence both the problem and the data initiative itself.

Requirements:

* Problem Overview: Define the problem, its significance, and who it affects.
* Data Initiative Overview: Describe an existing data initiative related to the problem defined. Briefly describe the type of data it collects and how the data is used (these points will be further investigated in part 2).
* Matrix of Domination Analysis: Like the previous in-class activity we completed, please examine the different domains of power (structural, disciplinary, hegemonic, and interpersonal)
* Provide at least two sources that describe your problem and data initiative.

Length: ~2-page written proposal

## Part 2: Data Description & Exploration (Due Sun March 23rd 11:59 PM)

Objective: Critically analyze the data used in the data initiative and the methodologies utilized in the collection and analysis of the data.

Requirements:

* Data Availability and Methodology: How do is the data collected? What data is collected? How do is the data analyzed? How is the data used?
* Ethical Framework: Does the data collection and analysis align with the ethical considerations presented in the Data Feminism framework – or another ethical framework? Who benefits from the data, and who might be harmed? Are there data points missing? Who is counted?
* Optionally, you may present this analysis as a combination of written analysis along with coding-based exploration via visualizations, exploratory data analysis, etc.

Length: 3- to 5-page written analysis, text optionally supplemented with code/notebooks

## Part 3: Comparative Methods Analysis (Due: Friday April 18th 11:59 PM)

Objective: Compare different ways this problem might be addressed by other data efforts assessing their alignment with your ethical framework of choice (Data Feminism, Design Justice Network, etc.).

Requirements:

* Comparative Review: Select at least two additional data initiatives that are related to your problem of interest. Examine how these data efforts may differ in the methodology, available data, or usage of the data.
* Ethical Analysis: Using your chosen ethical framework, examine whether these additional data efforts align with the proposed principles. Do the data initiatives prioritize transparency, inclusion, equity, pluralism, etc.?
* Critique: Based on your analysis, which initiative is most effective? Can your initial chosen data initiative learn anything from these other data efforts?

Length: 3- to 5-page written analysis

## Part 4.1: Final Presentation (Due: Mon April 28 & Wed April 30)

Objective: Summarize your findings in a final presentation that critically evaluates the data initiative and its ability to address the original problem of interest.

Requirements:

* Examine Problem: Summarize your problem and who it impacts.
* Examine Data Initiative: Examine the data effort, its methodology, type of data collected, and usage of data specifically how it aligns with a chosen ethical framework.
* Compare to other Data Initiatives: Briefly discuss how other efforts might attempt to answer the same or similar problem. How do these other efforts work similarly or differently?
* Summarize: Suggest ways the original chosen initiative might be improved or lessons it could learn from other data efforts. These could include your own suggestions or analysis as well.

Length: 15 minutes total: 10-12 minutes plus questions

## Part 4.2: Final Paper (Due: May 10th 5PM (Seniors) and May 16th 12:30PM (all other students))

Objective: Incorporating feedback from previous assignments and the presentation, summarize your findings about your data initiative of interest, examine its alignment with a chosen ethical framework, and assess its effectiveness to address the problem. NOTE: This will likely include pieces of your previous writings throughout the semester.

Requirements:

* Introduction: Summary of problem and data initiative (Proposal)
* Data and Methods: Examination of data methodology of data initiative and analysis of the type of data collected and how it’s used. Optionally can include figures generated from coding-based analysis. (Data Exploration)
* Comparative Analysis: Comparison of two or more data efforts that are related to your problem. Examination of the ecosystem of data efforts. (Comparative Methods)
* Discussion: Summarize your analysis of your chosen data effort and its ability to address the problem of interest. Are there lessons this data effort could learn from other initiatives? Are there other ways this data initiative could be improved to effectively address the problem?

Length: 7-to-10-page final write-up

Collaboration Policy:  
Students are encouraged to collaborate on research, data analysis, and coding. You may work in a group to gather sources, explore datasets, develop visualizations, and critically discuss the data effort from the desired framework. Additionally, you may work together to prepare and deliver the final presentation. However, the written components of the project (proposal, data exploration, comparative analysis, and final paper) must be completed individually. Each student is responsible for producing their own written analysis and ensuring their work reflects their own critical engagement with the topic.