**CSE 450 – Case Study Performance Evaluation**

Treat the questions in this evaluation like a professional document you would send to an executive team during a post-mortem. Write in complete sentences, using correct grammar and spelling.

**1. During this module, what are two key ideas you learned during this case study related to machine learning and data analysis?**

I learned that learning from your past errors doesn't always work perfectly, and that you have to continue to adjust and readjust. I also learned that sometimes there isn't a perfect way to do things and you just have to try your best.

**2. Choose one of your answers to the previous question and write a one-paragraph summary of that concept or idea as if you were teaching it to someone else.**

One difference of the gradient boosted model over the decision tree is that the decision tree does not 'learn from it's mistakes.' Gradient boosted models assign 'rediduals' or errors to improperly or poorly categorized data, and then work to improve on that categorization. In the same way, as we work on projects, we won't do it right the first time, or second, or third, but if we keep learning from our mistakes and working on them, we can gradually improve our function.

**3. If you had additional time to work on this case study, what is one thing that you would you do to take things further?**

I would have tried to eliminate coding errors in imputed data that we had in order to see if the extra information some teammates found would have actually improved the model. Because we didn't check for column count mismatches, we thought our model was performing better, but it was actually much worse. Fixing those errors could lead to a significant model improvement.

**4. Aside from having to learn a new and/or difficult concept, what do you think was the biggest obstacle your team faced during this case study?**

Our biggest obstacle was consolidating work we had already done into a submittable and meaningful format. We did a lot of great and creative exploration, but failed to pull it together near the end as well as we could have.

**5. What is the most insightful thing you learned from hearing about what the other teams did?**

Honestly, I learned that getting fancy does not always make significant improvements. Sometimes all you need is one really good idea that works, over maybe 15 that either could work, or work a tiny bit. It's not that they had bad ideas, its just that what helped us make progress in the end was having something functional.

**6. What insights did you gather about learning in general from this module?**

I gathered that learning is non-linear. It doesnt' happen in the ways you think or how you think. You just have to be really open to the process and take things as they come. You can't do things perfect, but mistakes you make are opportunities for improvement if you see them in the right light.

**7. Could these insights apply to spiritual learning? If so, how?**

I think spiritual learning is something we have to be open to, it's always going to be new and sometimes not what we expected. We have to accept that we make mistakes and aren't going to do perfect, but that's life. I think learning is always something new or different from what we've known or think we've known, so spiritual learning can surprise us, and we have to be open to that.

**8. You should have received an email from the TEAMMATES web app for you to enter your personal and team evaluations for this module. (If not, you should email Brother Allred to fix this.) Before submitting this document, go complete the TEAMMATES online feedback survey. Did you complete the online TEAMMATES evaluation survey?**

**Yes**