**Final Project Thoughts**

For my final project, I would like to devise a map in which New York City residents can report real time incidents that occur on a street level basis. Similar to Chris Whong’s street level crime map, as well as like the dead bird’s map discussed in class, people may be able to simply report a general cross section in which an incident occurred. The purpose of this type of map is for people to be able to see real time incidents and what type of crime occurs within their neighborhood.

There are a few important benefits to this type of map activity. With this level of public display, people often may report incidents without hesitation or discretion (i.e. if something minor occurs it can become an incident). Eventually, it may be possible to take tweets or other social media type reports of incidents, and pinpoint them on maps of New York City. Police investigations and COMPSTAT type data is timely and has a lag in release for investigation. This map allows for a greater capability of real time, open data that provides more insight onto where things are occurring and what type of activity frequents different areas.

Geowebs are particularly useful for this type of observational study. Geoweb maps give quick, reliable updates and accept significantly more formatting and file type options that traditional GIS software. While the GIS software such as arcmaps serves an important purpose in creating substantial maps, geoweb maps give much more flexibility. Updating and publishing maps to the world takes significantly less time, and others may contribute to it at will if the proper permissions are given. Collaboration begets real results, and it opens a map up to constant revisions, constant edits and updates if needed. There isn’t a need to recode files that may have a different GIS coordinate system, and the user interface far exceeds traditional GIS software with the quick ability to change features, write code for those features if needed, or obtain access to new data/data permissions from other users that may have interest in the project. With my own project, I would like to have this tool available for other users to interact with, simply being able to click a point on the map or enter an address, then choose an incident type and simply save this point on the map.

This will be an extensive undertaking, since I am not expressly familiar with geowebs or a huge coder. Hopefully, with this class and some extra work outside of the class, I can start to broaden these skills and at least make a rudimentary version of the map. I have worked with crime maps and data quite a bit in the past, and believe that this project idea could bring new perspective to this type of study.