Extra Credit Assignment  
Lab 1, Geography 575  
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*“Submit a ~1 page write‐up discussing the parts of this lab and the covered technologies that were unclear, places you were lost, and “Aha!” moments you may have had along the way.”*

This lab was quite a learning experience for me. Even though I did the full askLynda.com (both JS and a separate Object Oriented Programming tutorial) and Code Academy JS tutorials, I saw quite plainly when attempting to implement a fifth operator that I have a ways yet to go.

Here are the items that caused me trouble:

1. I had little trouble finding resources on the web but I didn’t know how to implement them. Though I had success with a JS function that transformed my data into strings and then inserted a thousands comma, I found little success with other resources. I put these into my js file but was unable to figure out how to incorporate them into my coding. I tried to follow the instructions in the lab assignment to substitute in the right variables into the outside plugins but was largely unsuccessful on my own.
2. I also realized that though my HTML/CSS skills were sufficient for a basic web site, I will need to augment them to create a richer web experience for my Final Project.
3. To further my capabilities in HTML/CSS, I began tutorials/hands-on work with Dreamweaver. Though I have a ways to go to more fully use this effective IDE, I have a solid start. Though my own skills were sufficient to code and style this lab without DW, I can see how useful a solid working knowledge of an IDE will be later in the class.
4. On a conceptual level, I saw that my aircraft movement data was not ideal for a proportional symbol cartographic representation because a) the changes from year to year were too small to be visually impactful and b) my percentage change data points include negative values. Since my initial idea was to represent how the recession affected travel—in itself, a study in negative values—a symbol that cannot represent negative values isn’t useful. I will be more mindful of the representations available to me when choosing topics.
5. My “Aha” moments were similar to those I had when learning HTML, CSS, Illustrator, and Photoshop: almost anything I wanted to do someone had done before and had written about it online. Though I found those online explanations more accessible than those for JS, I think after returning to some tutorials and just working with the scripting language, I will be able to better use the online examples. My biggest problem with online JS, Leaflet and jQuery libraries has been my fumbling with what to replace in the sample code so it works in my existing code. I am certainly hoping that with some effort and further learning, this will become more apparent.
6. Regrettably, my site seems to be fully functional only on Firefox. The time slider doesn’t work in IE and nothing but the map loads in Chrome (you had mentioned this might be a problem at some point in class). I looked online for fixes to these problems but was unable to find any. I followed the suggestion to replace my static reference style sheets with linked ones but the limitations linger.

All in all, I have a much better idea of what I do not yet know and how to address that in the coming weeks. I must concede I am not surprised at where I stand now: able to replicate some basic functions but with a better understanding of where my knowledge gaps lie. I’m certainly putting in the time and effort in the class. I must concede I’m feeling a wee bit beaten and bruised at the moment.