Project Reflection

Jin Hyung Lee – BABI 4005

Github Link – ejh6/JinTest at finalproject

1. Are you proud of your project? Why or why not?

Yes, I am satisfied with my project. It was challenging, but also very rewarding. Being able to do a real-world application provided me with the ability to push myself with it, and I believe that I learned a good amount along the way. Something I'm especially proud of is how I cleaned and merged the datasets to make sure everything was set up properly. That had a huge difference in the analysis. I realize that there are things that I might have done better—like making more intricate visualizations or looking into other datasets—but for the most part, I believe that I've learned a great deal from this project.

2. What did you learn about the topic you chose?

I worked with information about government officials' travel expenses, and it was fascinating to see the trends that were formed. Airfare, for example, turned out to be one of the biggest expenses, and it is understandable but was surprising nonetheless when I saw the numbers. One of the biggest surprises for me was how dirty real-world data is. Small issues like missing values, formatting, or outliers can completely distort an analysis if you fail to clean them up properly. This project allowed me to learn how much work goes into readying data so that you are even at the fun part—a.k.a., analyzing it.

3. What did you learn about working with data in git?

My experience working with Git on this project was educational. I never actually used Git before this class, so even though I learned the overall concepts—push, pull, commit—I didn't know how to use it. There were moments when I would just be clicking away, trying to figure it out myself. Doing work with gigantic datasets was tricky too, but I learned how to use .gitignore so that my repo could be cleaner and more organized. By the time I finished the project, I was much more comfortable with Git, and I see how useful it is for version control and collaboration.

4. Did you choose to include your work in assignment 3? Why or why not?

No, I didn't end up merging my work from Assignments 3 and 5. Honestly, at that point, I felt like I had already done a lot of work in those assignments, and merging everything would have required extra effort that I wasn't up for. Instead, I focused on applying the key insights from those assignments without directly integrating the files. If I had more time (and

motivation), merging might have made my project more cohesive, but in the end, I still got the main takeaways without going through the extra steps.

5. What were your main challenges?

Honestly, Git was certainly one of the most difficult for me. Since I'd never used it before, I just didn't know precisely what I needed to be doing. I had heard of pushing and pulling changes but actually doing it and not messing up my repo was another thing. There were times when I felt a bit annoyed at having to test and figure things out by trial and error. Another thing that was some work was organizing my files in GitHub—especially through the web browser. It wasn't necessarily clear at first, but after messing around with it for a while, I started to feel like I had the hang of it. In the end, I believe these obstacles toughened me up, and I'm more at ease with Git now than I was when I started.