

## Activity 5 Reflection

This semester was all about learning and applying data science techniques in ways I didn't expect. At first, it felt like a big leap into something I wasn't entirely sure about, but the more I worked through each activity, the more it started to click. Every project—from working with Python loops to analyzing real-world datasets—added another layer of understanding. It wasn't just about coding or data; it was about seeing how these tools connect to bigger conversations and impact everyday life.

One of the most interesting parts of this class was the way we tied data science back to culture and history. For example, the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade dataset in Activity 3 wasn't just numbers. It told a story about people, historical events, and the gaps in recorded data. Cleaning and analyzing the data was frustrating at times (missing entries, anyone?), but it was also rewarding because I could see the bigger picture. It reminded me that behind every dataset, there's something deeper—something human. That was one of the biggest takeaways for me: data isn't just stats and trends; it's a way to uncover stories that might otherwise stay hidden.

The TikTok project was probably my favorite. It combined cultural relevance with everything we've learned about analyzing trends and presenting data. Visualizing how songs rise and fall in popularity across platforms showed me how powerful data storytelling can be. I found myself more engaged because the project wasn't just technical—it was fun and relatable. It also reinforced the idea that data science isn't limited to one field. Whether it's music, history, or social change, the skills we've developed this semester are so flexible.

What stood out to me the most was how this course made data science feel accessible. Before, I thought of coding as something rigid and intimidating, but now I see it as creative and

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adaptable. Writing Python scripts and debugging errors felt less like a chore and more like solving a puzzle. Sure, I made a ton of mistakes—forgetting a single colon or mixing up variables—but those moments taught me to slow down and pay attention to detail. By the end of the semester, I felt way more confident in my abilities, and I even started helping classmates troubleshoot their code.

Looking ahead, I know I'll use what I learned here in more ways than one. Whether it's for future classes, personal projects, or even a career, I can see how data science connects to everything. It's about asking the right questions, being curious, and finding meaning in what might seem random at first. I'm leaving this course with a better understanding of the technical side of data, but also with a bigger appreciation for its role in storytelling and decision-making.

Overall, this class pushed me out of my comfort zone in the best way. It wasn't just about learning skills; it was about seeing the world through a new lens. Data science felt like this big, abstract idea at the start of the semester, but now it feels like something I can actually use to make sense of the world and contribute to it. That's what I'm taking away from this experience—a sense of connection, creativity, and possibility.