

This Week's Reflection Prompt

1. How do the differences between forecasts and projections matter?
 - A projection is the extrapolation of the future's characteristics, based on the past.
 - A forecast is what we assume to be the most likely extrapolation of the future characteristics, based on our best guess at future conditions.
2. What are the implications of these differences for your own areas of focus or study?

Projections can serve as a tool to help me understand specific aspects of demographics, such as the population trend and the employment rate change over time. A forecast is more of a comprehensive perspective on the future. For my study, I can use projections to calculate the future trend of races, then use forecast to evaluate the races within the Pilsen community in 2030 and 2050, and then provide evidence for my proposal in different periods.

3. Based upon your area of study or specialization, what types of information help you to assess the accuracy or certainty of a forecast?

The Census tract is a handy tool to understand the demographics of different communities, and it also provides a chance for me to compare these communities on different geographic scales. Chicago open data is another tool I will use to understand a specific community deeply.