

Session 5 Report: Best Practices in Computing

Applied Quantitative Methods II

2026-02-18

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Summary

Artifact	Status	File Path
Slides (presentation)	PASS	slides/05_computing/computing.pdf
Slides (notes)	PASS	slides/05_computing/computing_notes.pdf
Assignment	PASS	assignments/assign5_computing.pdf
Solution Part 1	PASS	assignments/solution/assign5_1.pdf
Solution Part 2	PASS	assignments/solution/assign5_2.pdf

All artifacts compiled/knitted successfully.

Slides

Section Overview

The slide deck (`computing_body.tex`) contains **27 content frames** organized into **6 sections**:

Section	Slides	Key Content
Introduction	3	Why computing practices matter, motivating discussion prompt
Project Organization	5	Task folders, <code>workflow_example</code> tree, file naming, R/LaTeX integration, Makefiles
Writing Better Code	5	DRY principle, constants, checks/assertions, print diagnostics, code style
Plain Text and Tools	4	Why plain text, code editors, command line, discussion prompt
Version Control with Git	5	Git recap, <code>.gitignore</code> , commit habits, GitHub replication, collaboration
Wrap-up	4	Resources, summary, next week, questions

Compilation Status

- **Presentation PDF**: 152 pages (including animation steps), compiles cleanly
- **Notes PDF**: 17 pages, compiles cleanly
- **Overfull hbox warnings > 10pt**: 0
- **LaTeX errors**: 0

Pedagogy Review Summary

The pedagogy reviewer rated the deck positively (5/8 patterns fully followed, 2/8 partially applied, 1/8 not applicable). Key findings:

- **Strengths**: Good motivation-before-formalism structure, excellent worked examples after every concept, consistent semantic color usage (red for bad, teal for good), thorough presenter notes
- **Minor suggestions**: Could add one more discussion prompt in the Git section, could swap Makefile code/DAG slide order
- **Applied fix**: Added Makefile tab warning directly on-slide (was only in notes)

Visual Audit Summary

The slide auditor identified 1 high-severity and 5 medium-severity issues:

- **Fixed**: Makefile slide reduced from 19 to 10 lines (switched to `\scriptsize`, removed blank lines)
- **Fixed**: Long URL on intro slide replaced with citation reference
- **Remaining**: No issues after fixes

Images Needed

This deck contains no external images — all diagrams are built with TikZ. The instructor may want to add:

- A screenshot of a real GitHub replication repository

- An xkcd or similar comic about version control (the reference slides had `img/xkcd.png`)
- Screenshots showing good vs. bad project folder structures

Assignment

Structure

Assignment 5: Best Practices in Computing (7 pages, due March 12)

- **Part 1 (In-Class):** Project organization using the corruption dataset
 - Folder structure, analysis script, plots script, Makefile
- **Part 2 (Take-Home):** Code quality and Git practices
 - Rewrite a “bad” R script, practice Git commits, write reflection

Datasets

- `corruption.dta` — 170 observations, 5 variables (`ccode`, `cname`, `ccodealp`, `ti_cpi`, `undp_gdp`)
- Available at: github.com/franvillamil/AQM2/tree/master/datasets/other
- URL verified: accessible

Checker Results

- **URLs:** All accessible
- **Variable names:** All consistent with dataset columns
- **R code blocks:** All valid syntax, tested successfully
- **Packages:** `readstata13`, `modelsummary`, `ggplot2` — all available on CRAN
- **Compilation:** Clean (0 overfull hbox warnings, 0 errors)

Placeholders

- **Deadline:** March 12, before class (set)
- No other placeholders remaining

Solutions

Files Created

File	Description	Status
<code>assign5_1.Rmd</code>	Part 1 solution (project organization)	Knits to PDF
<code>assign5_1.R</code>	Bare R script for Part 1	Created
<code>assign5_2.Rmd</code>	Part 2 solution (code quality, Git)	Knits to PDF
<code>assign5_2.R</code>	Bare R script for Part 2 (improved script)	Created
<code>code/assign5.R</code>	Combined script	Created

Knitting Status

- `assign5_1.Rmd`: Knits successfully (warnings about unknown markdown and makefile engines are harmless)
- `assign5_2.Rmd`: Knits successfully (all code chunks are `eval=FALSE` since they reference hypothetical data)

Quality Scores

Artifact	Score	Status
Slides	95/100	Acceptable
Assignment	100/100	Acceptable
Solution Part 1	95/100	Acceptable (minor engine warnings)
Solution Part 2	100/100	Acceptable

Issues Requiring Attention

1. **Images:** The slide deck has no external images. Consider adding 1-2 images for visual variety (see suggestions above).
2. **Slide auditor note:** The “Key resources” slide (slide 25) is vertically dense with 5 resources. May need adjustment if it overflows on the specific projector setup.
3. **Assignment note:** The corruption dataset has no missing values on `ti_cpi` or `undp_gdp`, so the “drop missing” step removes 0 rows. Students may find this confusing. Consider mentioning this in class or in the solution.
4. **Solution note:** The `assign5_1.Rmd` solution downloads the corruption data from GitHub (URL) rather than loading it from a local path, since the solution runs independently of the assignment folder structure.