Hey Professor,

For this week, I was very interested in this week on the importance of contextualization when it comes to any analysis. Each week of class, I always attempt to connect the material with tasks or assignments that I have at work and I was able to see the effect that context has in the data that my department works with on a daily. For a lot of the enrollment of certain majors, they are typically on the low side and I always had imagined that as a not a good thing in the beginning; however, I was shown how even though not many freshmen are enrolled into the major, many students transfer into the program and that’s how it has grown to such a large presence on the campus.

When it came to this week’s coding assignment, I was a little nervous by choosing a technique to choose from in determining the positive or negative comments. However, with the subject that I chose, I was able to make it more interesting since I listen to music so regularly in everything that I do and am aware of the influence that it has on people. The largest challenge for me was being able to create the list of positive and negative words to compare the song lyrics with at the time. The real issue arose when certain curse words contained the ‘+’ or ‘\*’ character within them, but I was able to overcome said issue in some time by understanding that the code assumed it was an iterator instead of a strong character.

With the unsupervised learning, it has been a fascinating aspect of machine learning in that you are teaching your program the data first but are allowing it to understand it for itself based on the algorithm or technique that you are applying at the time. At the same time, as the course progresses, I see so many different types of paths that you can take to seek out patterns and gain different insights on your data. By seeing all of the different methods and seeing other classmates ask questions about the run time, I realize how much of a factor time will have on the process especially if the data set is of a larger than usual size.

-Gabriel