[Website URL](https://glimitless.github.io/gd4-final/)

Graphic Design 4 Process

My creative process for the final project of graphic design 3 began with brainstorming on a suitable topic, as at the beginning I wanted my data story to explain a complex scientific topic. As my interests lie in astronomy, as was initially thinking of explaining either the phenomena of black holes or time dilation. Issues arose not in the collecting of data to support the explanation, but in my understanding of the data, as most experiments proving these concepts use variables that were far beyond my comprehension. Thus I changed the scope of my inquiry to technological advancements, which led me into the study of climate change and how the use of renewable energy affects our environment. After a critique with Ignacio, in which it was pointed out that my topic may be too broad, I narrowed down the topic of my data story to U.S. energy generation in particular, communicating that their massive footprint has been steadily decreasing over time.

The challenges I had with this project all derived with the medium I chose to work with, which was a website coded from HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The library I worked with, d3.js was particularly infuriating, as the syntax is not easy for a newcomer to work with. Luckily I had a bit of experience with it from a project from a previous class, and with some perfectly timed help from ChatGPT, I was able to produce a minimum viable product by the time of the presentation.

The main issue with my project at the time of the presentation, was the lack narrative that was communicated alongside the abundance of data I presented. This was feedback that I received on the first iteration of my project, however my plan to make the animated bars interactive was thwarted by the method by which I programed the ‘scroll through the years interactions’, in which essentially an overlay is placed over the data visualization which tracks the cursors movement and actions, thus making it impossible for the cursor to directly click the graph. The animated bar chart was done as a fix to feedback I received for my first iteration, which instead hosted a scrollable series of bar charts; each individual chart consisting of the amount of energy generated though each type of energy per annum.

The interactions through the bar chart would have explained how each energy source works, and why it is either good or bad for the environment. After my initial submission, I plan to add openable and adjustable windows that will add the context that my project is missing. Windows which will hopefully be interactive with the visualizations already visible on the website’s landing page.