Feedback Document

Assignment Feedback

Time Investment & Reality Check

Took me about **2-3 days** to complete this. I know the guidance was to spend no more than 4 hours, but honestly, that felt pretty unrealistic for delivering something comprehensive. Between setting up the project structure, debugging database connections, getting the API integrations working smoothly, and just the inevitable "why isn't this working?" moments that happen in development, 4 hours would've been pretty tight for anything beyond a basic CRUD app.

Development Approach

I structured my time to focus on building a solid foundation first, then layered on the more interesting features. Once I had the core architecture and base code established, I used AI to help review my work, catch potential issues, and suggest improvements - which definitely helped speed up the refinement process.

How My Skills Matched Up

This project was a great fit for my background:

MERN Stack Experience:
Since I taught myself the MERN stack, I was comfortable with the React frontend and Node.js backend. Got to build out multiple analysis views, proper component architecture, and clean API integration.

MySQL from Work:
Working with MySQL daily at my current job made the database side pretty straightforward. Could focus on designing good schema relationships and writing efficient queries rather than figuring out basic database concepts.

The Fun Stuff:

- Building that regulatory complexity scoring algorithm was interesting
- Implementing change tracking for historical data analysis
- Getting all the different analytical views working together smoothly

Realistic Development Time

The 4-hour suggestion seems more suited to a simple demo rather than a production-quality application. Real development involves:

- Environment setup and configuration
- Debugging inevitable connection/dependency issues
- Proper testing and error handling
- Code review and refinement
- Actually making it look and work professionally

Taking the extra time allowed me to deliver something I'm genuinely proud of rather than a rushed proof-of-concept.