1.

For the three act narrative, I chose to introduce a variable and acts 1 and 2, then combine them in act 3. I started with a map of vacant housing rates in Detroit in order to catch the user’s attention and provide problem context. Then in act 2, I introduce ownership costs to show how many of the residents of Detroit are living in what is deemed unaffordable housing. While explaining these variables, I included some graphs of relevant facts to help provide supplementary information to the reader and give context. I also mapped out the variables within their acts on choropleth maps. In Act 3, I overlay these maps to create the bivariate map and talk about how these variables fit together and helped result in the issue of vacant neighborhoods. Then I go into a few of the things being done to resolve these issues today and provide some links so the reader can find more information.

2.

I tried to keep the continuity by using the three act narrative and providing logical steps to progress the story. I ended up removing some figures and paragraphs of text because, while interesting, they pulled away from the main story arc.

3.

I used color to help set the mood for the story. I used black and white pictures along with a gray background to give a more somber mood and relate to the seriousness of the topic. When I did use color, I muted it by making it slightly transparent to let the gray background show through. In the resolution, I reverse the color scheme and use colored pictures to show a brighter mood to match the resolution.

When I finally had my information finalized, I set my view to 100% zoom and scrolled through the infographic multiple times to space out my information and avoid large blocks of text. To get the dosing I wanted, I separated so only one segment of information would be fully visible at a time, typically text and an accompanying figure. This could be improved by scrolling through with different screen sizes to ensure the proper dosing remains.

In terms of redundancy, I tried to use color to organize information and separate the acts.

If there was more time, it would be interesting to follow a single family in Detroit with housing troubles and use their story to bring forward the plot and add voice.

4.

The biggest challenge I had was deciding which variables should be mapped. Since I was using census information, there was quite a bit of data available, and I wanted my final map to have some sort of huge impact on the reader. In the end, I decided it was better to follow the story and map the variables involved rather than try and force an “aha!” moment. I wouldn’t say I had any huge breakthroughs, but rather a lot of small tweaks as I went through the reiterative process of refinement.

The first tip I learned was start early. The second tip I learned was find data early and decide what data to use before going into the design process. My final design was redone many times because I couldn’t decide which data to use, so spending more time in the early stages to get a good prototype would help leave more time for styling and refinement.