I was responsible for the History and Legislation, the Case Studies, and part of the Recommendations sections of our presentation. I encountered difficulties finding data on the nature and causes of gun-related deaths in other countries and in the United States over time. If I were to continue this research, I would look for more targeted ways to curb violence and consider the principles of U.S. citizens in order to gain more background on their views towards this issue.

My contributions involved research and creating figures. For the History and Legislation section of our presentation, I performed research to learn how the pro- and anti-gun stances on the debate have changed over time. I also read about the current legislation in the United States and summarized the national legislation. I also found statistics about which states have different gun control legislation and made a graph showing the number of states with different laws in place. For the Case Studies section, I chose to countries to examine, Finland and Australia, and researched what gun control legislation they had in place. I found that both countries passed very restrictive gun control in the wake of mass shootings. I chose two measures for each country, firearm homicides and firearm suicides, and plotted them over time in order to show the effects of the legislation.

For the Recommendations section, I found an expert who represents the pro-gun side of the debate, Gary Kleck, and summarized his views and findings in one of his research publications. I brought in two visuals from his papers that showed the correlations and causations between different factors such as gun control, the presence of guns, and violence. I also contributed to our conclusions and recommendations slides by reiterating our main points and showing how they logically led to the recommendations I helped formulate. I also made some miscellaneous contributions throughout the presentation such as finding the scatter plot of homicide rate vs. firearms per 100 people on slide 13 and making the names of the countries in the Gun-Related Deaths in High-Income Countries bar chart on slide 11 more readable.

It was difficult finding times for TJ and I to work on it together, which made it difficult to come up with a cohesive argument and story for our presentation. In the beginning we were able to find plenty of information but had a hard time narrowing it down to the information we wanted to include. Also, a lot of the information was conflicting, and we had a hard time determining why different articles seemed to present opposing results. Later in our work, we had a narrower scope of what we were looking at and knew what specific information we wanted to find out, making this probably the easiest stage of our research. We really encountered difficulties at the end of our project when we needed to bring all of our information and research together into a cohesive story and argument. We did most of the research independently and had not spent very much time discussing what our final argument would be. As a result, we spent considerable time at the end discussing our argument and figuring out how to connect our information together to tell the story we wanted to present. In the end, I think we were able to tie it together.

If I were to continue this research, I would focus on answering two questions that were raised in the comments for our final presentation. The first was the question was what means of acquiring a gun was the most common for guns used in a crime. This was something we did not do any research into. We learned about the percentage of guns bought through different means, but we did not examine how this related to guns used in crimes. This is an important question because it is only the guns that are ultimately used in crimes that we should be concerned with, and it may be that our solution does not adequately address this group of weapons. The second question was what would prevent the pro-gun group, for example Gary Kleck, from agreeing with our conclusions. We said that it w ould be their principles that would cause them to oppose gun control. This was something we incorporated a little at the beginning of our presentation when we examined the two sides of the debate, but if I were to continue this research, I would look deeper into their principles. It would benefit the presentation to present an understanding of where these principles come from and what value they have in order to show more understanding of the other side.