Student Feedback for *Exploring Isaiah’s Legacy in the Book of Mormon*

**Part 1: Topic Selection**

General feedback about selecting Isaiah and BoM cross reference data to visualize. From four unique students, I heard the following…

* “I think that’s a super cool idea, I saw a similar project where someone made a visual EDA of Book of Mormon verses by topic and it was super interesting.”
* “Yeah that sounds really cool.”
* “Very cool idea.”
* Other verbal (and more detailed) feedback told me that this kind of project sounds very interesting or can become very resourceful.

The research question, overall, was inspired by one of my religion classes. The professor discussed how Isaiah and the Book of Mormon had plenty of ties, but also mentioned that some parts of Isaiah in historical context conflicted with the beginning of Lehi’s narrative of leaving Jerusalem. Because his family left before the Babylonian exile, and half of Isaiah is written post-exile, I wanted to visualize what this dilemma meant for the Book of Mormon text. I also realized little has been done to resolve graphically depict how the Book of Mormon ties to the Bible (plenty of projects do this with the OT and NT), so at least starting small by working only with the bible’s Isaiah could be the beginning of a much-needed project within the LDS Church.

**Part 2: Data Collection and Cleaning Blog**

General feedback on the blog describing the data collection process and its brief steps.

Student #1:

• “I would wager to say that the post is a bit on the longer side and feels a little thick on the detail. Just an opinion, but this is supposed to introduce readers, not necessarily a tutorial in teaching them to do what you did.”

• “While you talk a lot about the research and debate of some things, I am still unclear about what your personal motivation and questions about this are. Are you just trying to provide more data connecting the Bible and Book of Mormon? Are you trying to count how many verses are directly quoted?”

• “Other than that, it looks pretty good!”

Student #2:

“Maybe I just read too quickly, but I was curious about how the similarity scores are calculated. I think it would help my understanding of the graphs if I understood better what that score measured more specifically. I would also second what [student 1] said about being wordy (including in the blog posts). Sometimes, the wordiness is leading to grammatical errors. I can tell you put a lot of effort into everything. Very well done.”

Student #3:

“Your collection & wrangling process was fairly straightforward to follow. You mentioned missing information still in your dataset even after adding back in the rest of the Book of Mormon text. I think it would be helpful to explain that a little more clearly so the reader understand what data might still be missing. I think you could add a little more explanation about the methods you picked for your text comparison process. I'm not familiar with like the cosine method so I'm not sure what the significance of choosing it is. I'll agree with suggestions above to expand on the similarity score process.”

The feedback revolved around limiting the amount of words involved in the post, along with explaining more in detail how the similarity scores were calculated and some other small details about the dataset. Therefore, the changes I made were that I trimmed down some words and explanations, made my project motivation more clear within the synopsis, and added some extra content about how similarity scores were computed.

Completing the feedback for this part of the project allowed me to read more up on similarity score with the cosine method and provide a brief explanation as to how it works. I also trimmed down unnecessary words and focused on the important content.

First draft is commit 300. Changes made at commit 304 for the final draft.

**Part 3: EDA Blog**

Student #1:

• “Reduce the intro and reference your first blog post.”

• “It is hard to follow your train of thought as you move from graph to graph. You talk about the graphs, but you don’t really explain why the graph is important and why it’s worth looking at.”

• “Great job all around!”

Student #2:

“Love your color scheme. I think your EDA visuals are pretty effective. I suggest using some bolded words when you define Proto, Deutero, and Trito. As I was looking at your graphs I scanned back up the page to remind myself what each category meant and it was harder to find because it blended in with the rest of the text. I thought the word maps could be larger as well. You can see the largest words fairly well but it's hard to read and compare the other words. The lightest blue color you used I don't think is helping visibility of the words either.”

Student #3:

“I think that the hook to the blog could be fixed so that it doesn’t sound like you are pulling an argument against the Church of Jesus Christ. But the topic is actually really interesting for a statistics project!”

The suggestions required less effort and was more focused on writing once again. In this revision, I reduced the synopsis a great deal and referenced the data collection blog. I also bolded some the Duhm Classification words to make it easier to find in the blog. I decided not to change the color schematic of the word cloud because I mostly wanted them to focus on the biggest and most eye-catching words within each classification. I also unfortunately cannot change the size of the word cloud on the blog, so I left it as is. The suggestions mainly enhanced the readability and structure of the blog.

The main challenge of the EDA was mainly generating the graphics. I am not the most familiar with seaborn, but I researched plenty of documentation to make things like the faceted bar plot, violin plot, and word clouds. The EDA also opened up holes in my datasets (such as certain chapters missing), so I was able to fix them after recognizing them.

First draft is commit 300. Changes made at commit 305 for the final draft.

**Part 4: Streamlit Dashboard**

Student #1:

• “Feels a bit too wordy, it should be a dashboard not another blog post.”

• “Super solid Streamlit. No real feedback besides the fact that it is awesome.”

Student #2:

“I thought you made good use of the Streamlit dashboard because the books with a lot of chapters are hard to chart in a bar chart in a static setting. I'm not opposed to providing a little bit of explanation on the Streamlit dashboard but maybe it just needs to be simplified so it's faster to scan and read. I like the Cross Reference suggests. You cover a lot of data and it would be easy to click around to difference books and chapters without stumbling into anything significant. Nice work.”

Student #3:

“Here is some feedback on your dashboard. I didn't read any of your blog posts so hopefully, this helps from the perspective of someone who doesn't have all the other context

I love that you have some text at the beginning for context. Really helped me understand

I love your interactive elements. Super interesting to learn more about and I kept playing with them for awhile. The one thing for improvement maybe could be the data frame about halfway down the page. Maybe add come text for context of what that is displaying”

Student #4:

“I loved your streamlit app! Super well set up. I really liked how you defined some of the words before going into it. I also loved your suggestions for exploring, I want to add that to mine too. It helps guide the audience to look at the meaningful patterns. I thought all of your visualizations added on to each other and it made sense the order that you put everything in. it all builds on each other and was intuitive. I didn't see any spell checks either. But I thought it was super usable and visually it looked great.”

Non-stat student:

“Other than it being a little too wordy, the dashboard is actually really well put together. I like how its both interactive but comprehensive to the books.”

Again, there is a common theme of wordiness. I guess I just like words! I minimized the introduction and added some information about the table closer to the bottom of the dashboard.

I added extra context to the bottom table and removed redundant text. Ultimately, though, I received a LOT of positive feedback from this dashboard, and I am truly happy on how it turned out.

Streamlit script is found on this GitHub repo. The first draft commit is 24. Final draft is commit 31.