

Final Project Introduction

The final project is a opportunity for you to explore a topic that you are interested in. The final allows you to plan in detail a a data-driven story which you can tell visually and interactively. In groups or individually, you will gather, analyze, synthesis and represent data. Some class time will be devoted to getting feedback on your progress each week.

Project Teams

For the final project, you can choose to work independently, or in teams of up to 3 people. You may find that teams of 3 allow you the flexibility to take on larger and more complex topics.

Getting started:

If you already have a dataset you would like to work with, start by gaining an understanding of the limits and capabilities of the dataset to answer particular questions. Get the summary statistics of the dataset. Refer to different types of scales(nominal, ordinal,interval,ratio) and what operations can be conducted with them. Choose summary methods that align with your dataset. Next, using the summaries, look for the trends, outliers and relationships within this dataset and think about the types of stories you can tell with it. Is it a story about change? Is there a subset of the data that forms an interesting relationship to the whole? Are there unique characteristics or aspects of this data that is not well publicized or widely communicated?

If you have a area of interest that you would like to explore. Start by posing an initial question whose answers would address one of these interests. Think about the possible dataset that you would need to answer your question. You may have to adjust your questions in scope or focus as you navigate the available datasets. You may find a dataset in your search that allows you to formulate a new question to pursue.

Evaluation

The general criteria for evaluating your project is based on whether it is clear, engaging, and effective.

- Effective visualizations
- Sensible and effective interaction
- Innovative use of visual components
- Appropriateness of technical implementation
- Clear storytelling
- Visual design (including website)
- Addresses the goals you set out

Output

- Website/page with your visualization
- Accompanying documentation on process
- If you worked in teams - a description of role of each member and peer evaluation