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STATS 419

Instructor: Monte J. Shaffer

Date: 20201204

Notebook Summary		
Metric	Count	Comments
Pages	28	Doesn't account for "backs" of pages, which were needed about 75% of the time
Unique dates	20	There were several days this semester where I watched multiple videos on one day. I still practiced with the notebooks in between each lesson and strategized to try group related content.
Quotes	19	The absolute best-matched quote happened by complete accident – I wrote it down after hearing it in one of the lectures I TA for: "Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution." – Theodosius Debzhansky ...and that was the day we talked about the Iris dataset.
Reflection paragraphs	9	Admittedly few, some of the content that I talked about in my R-notebooks could have better been translated to this space.
Quick notes	>100	This depends how you define it, but this constitutes the bulk of my workbooks, that way it can remain a good physical reference for relevant R packages and concepts going forward.

I used this notebook throughout the semester while viewing lectures, working on the notebooks, and while attending office hours. Cumulatively for all of the metrics listed above, I would put my efforts at 80%. I primarily retained the 'quick notes' from your original model because I know that works for me – those are the elements that I would regularly reference throughout the semester, and what I go back and check for in my notes from previous classes. That said, what I currently find useful is not necessarily best practice: I think the fact that I only wrote reflections for half of them also reflects a shortcoming in my personal approach to research – where I should be taking more time to document my thought process during experiments and analysis. The quotes were also an area where I fell slightly short – although I

now pay much greater attention to potential quote options “out in the world” in all of the class/news/article content I consume. Out of curiosity, I looked up quotes from both Will Smith and Denzel Washington, wondering if this in itself might reveal who is better. It doesn’t. “Being realistic is the most common path to mediocrity” (Will Smith) vs. “ease is a greater threat to progress than hardship” (Denzel Washington) ...I think I could stand to internalize both of those. With regard to page count: I watched all of the mandatory videos but need to spend some time over break to view the optional ones. I think one of the things that my notebook shows, based on the questions I have written down throughout, is that I will be regularly interacting with the content in this class for quite some time, and still have some work to do to internalize all of the concepts, but I think that is a success- learning that ends with the semester is exactly that. The thing that my notebook cannot directly illustrate, are all of the ways I have taken the concepts from the course and tried applying them to my own data. There is a reflection early in my notebook where I said that my goal for this course was to develop a clear and specific protocol for data analysis. And while the lessons learned here have certainly provided structure and given me a better grasp of what is and isn’t allowed, I don’t think about data analysis that way anymore – I’ve asked more questions of my research this semester than I did the entire first year and found a narrative to pursue that I think is interesting and relevant to my field. That happened because the exploratory unit forced me to take a step back from the structure I had originally put around my experiment – I think this is a powerful lesson to keep asking questions, and to challenge myself to approach problems in as many different ways as I can before committing to a path.