

Reflection

One thing I realize is that throughout this process, I have been relying on my high school working knowledge of coding and have not done a lot of studying or overview or practice to become better on my own outside of class. I now know that I should work harder. In this project, the biggest issue for me was the transition from ideas to actually writing out code. I ended up procrastinating because the initial steps to start coding were my biggest hurdles. With that said, I still think I took away a lot of benefits from this project. I learned from the interviews that the decision to have a baby is deeper than the fact that babies are cute to have. The decision to have babies is influenced by factors ranging from emotional readiness to practical decisions. Through some outside research and interviews with the three people of different ages, parenthood presents both a lot of joy and a lot of hardships. Through my googling I found that the declining birth rates observed in recent years, especially during covid, represent a shift for childcare, education, and economic decisions. As said in the interviews, I did more searching online and I found that there is a common occurrence for seeing that time becomes a precious commodity for parents when they have kids, as highlighted by studies showing minimal "me time", especially mothers, and emotional resilience also becomes crucial, as shown by sources on miscarriage, premature births, and health challenges faced by newborns. These responsibilities that I both searched online for and heard about from parents I interviewed have made me more hesitant on having babies, because now I know better that they're one of the biggest commitments you can have in your life, and it's stressful because you worry about how they'd grow up as people when they're adults and if all that time and energy you spent into them would pay off for their future, all at the cost of your freedom. All of these reasons are why I am not as excited to have babies, and more specifically I definitely want to have babies later in life now after having done this project, because I want to make sure I have enough "me" time. I would say with enough thought effort and organization, it is worth having a baby. The biggest shift in perspective that I noticed while doing these

interviews was that I thought everyone that I interviewed was going to become more focused on cost and money as the cons and the economic benefits such as caretaking after you can't work anymore and additionally it would supply a support person for you when you have troubles. What I found in the interviews however was that almost nobody talked to me about cost when it came to babies and if they did it was not a large issue. I found that most of the larger issues included the physical and mental labor of taking care of a child and the benefits were more about growth and development of witnessing the child progress to milestones. Like I stated in the beginning I witnessed some issues recently with my code in the project and I really wish I started developing the code for the website way earlier. I have noticed a lot of difficulty with this project has been in the coding portion which is the purpose of this class and I wish I focused on that more instead of getting sidetracked with my interest in this topic. In the future I would like to interview a much larger number of people to publish a book. I really enjoyed the writing and documenting process with this project and I think that it would be super achievable for me to have that kind of conversation with people and make that kind of progress.