This semester, we started off trying to collect example sentences using the HTML/JavaScript files that Dr. Korpusik had from collecting the examples and semantic tags from food logging. However, there was some sort of error with one of the JavaScript files that I couldn't figure out, so we took out those JavaScript files, and I was going to just write my own. However, even then, when we published the files online and tried to submit the page back to Amazon Mechanical Turk as an ExternalQuestion, there was another error. We couldn't figure out why again.

At this point, it just seemed easier to use Amazon Mechanical Turk's built-in survey tools called CrowdHTML. This way, I could write the page in HTML (with JavaScript checks) and it was directly in Amazon Mechanical Turk (AMT). I could also test the task in Amazon Mechanical Turk Sandbox easily. This worked well, although the page was very busy visually since we had so many questions. We even collected 10 examples, but realized that we had forgotten to collect the values of the tags.

During this time, I was also exploring other CrowdHTML elements that seemed perfect for our project. However, I was unable to get the one that I really wanted to use, crowd-entity-annotation, to work. I have been emailing with Amazon Mechanical Turk Support, but they aren't replying fast enough to be much help.

Then, I learned about Qualtrics, which is a lot easier to read, it looks a lot better, and it's so much quicker to create questions than when I was writing them myself in HTML. I can also use the "pipe text" feature in Qualtrics, which allows me to take answers that the user entered in a previous question and display it in a later question as reference. This generally made the survey much less confusing to explain. I initially tried to use the pipe text option to allow the worker to just click on a word from an earlier exercise log and tag it as "exercise" or "how you felt," but after a long phone call with Qualtrics support, it turns out that this feature is not available in Qualtrics with the piping feature.

In the meantime, I also created a Python script that went through the AMT CSV file (now modified to go through the Qualtrics CSV file).

We also learned that this project probably requires an IRB application. I took the online basic social and behavioural research course. First, we were unsure whether the research would require IRB approval, but after a few phone calls and emails, it was determined that it was probably a good idea to do so. I wrote, corresponded with LMU IRB and Dr. Korpusik, and submitted this project's IRB application. It was approved approximately a week later.

I am currently trying to become familiar with PyTorch and Dr. Korpusik's previous nutrition RNN program so I can eventually create a similar one for exercise. I have been watching YouTube tutorials and going over her program slowly.