

Team Reflection

Overall, I was extremely impressed with our team's output and individual members' competencies put on display. However, I felt a major improvement area would have been a clearer and more aligned objective from the beginning. It often felt like multiple segmented groups within our larger team were working independently without enough communication between groups. There were definitely 5 different ideas of what the final outcome was meant to look like, which led our final output to be defined by how we were able to put these pieces together rather than an overarching goal. I felt like this went against the "Clear, Elevating Goal" part of the teamwork book, specifically the goal clarity part. That was one area I think we could have improved the most. I also felt like, at certain points, we could have used each other more rather than grinding away on our own without looping in other team members who potentially could have been useful. I think a more well-fleshed-out explanation at the beginning of the pieces and how they would ultimately fit together would have allowed for smoother collaboration between members. It felt like a lot of time and effort was wasted adjusting where/how the work products would go together after an essentially stand-alone piece of work was finished. I think if we had built out tasks visible for everyone with small objectives along the way, it would have made things more efficient. First, I would like to massively shout out Jeremy for taking the bull by the horns and completing many of the programming and engineering tasks that would've taken some of us weeks to figure out on our own. His commitment was clear, and his work ethic and competence were extremely impressive. If I had to give him some feedback, I would have liked to have a better idea of what exactly he was doing behind the scenes because, while he had tremendous results, I think we could have benefited from more integration of other teammates in the process to help fulfill all of our goals and each learn from him. I also felt that in some cases, when approaching him for help, his responses were a little too brief or would prompt him to essentially just solve the issue himself. While this was fairly effective, it did not quite promote the quality of a collaborative environment that is spoken about in the book. Jeremy was undoubtedly the strongest engine behind our team, but if he could grow as a leader beyond just setting an example, he would be even stronger. I thought Javier's background knowledge was very cool to have involved, and his passion definitely showed through. I learned from him as he and I worked on the sentiment analysis aspect of the project. He did a great job finding data and connecting ways in which sentiment analysis could be important for predicting price movement. He set up a pipeline in data bricks that got up-to-date news data, which was extremely helpful. I would have liked to see him be more vocal to the rest of the group on what our final result would look like throughout the process, as in the final stretch, he had been grinding away on an MLflow model that we ultimately did not know how to integrate into the rest of the project. I think this was a common theme, that more in-depth interim progress reports between our whole team could have turned work that we had done anyway into a much better final project. Aarya did a great job working on the UI and looping me in on the design, which I appreciated. I also thought she showed commitment and a strong interest in the bigger picture. Working with her, I felt like sometimes she would be a little hesitant to ask for help on things, or if she were to ask a question and get a brief response, she was not quick to ask for clarification but rather just tried to figure it out herself which surely wasted some effort. Tianji also killed it, helping get the UI to work, helping coordinate the production, and building the architecture

diagram. I did not personally have much communication with him throughout the process, so I guess more transparency could have been helpful, but I do not have much in-depth advice for him honestly. As a group, I think that more effective goal-setting, planning timelines and tasks out more concretely, and overall transparency would have improved our final product and helped cut down on wasted energy.