**Plot 1: ERA Over Time**

**A graph of a line graph

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From this plot, we can see that prior to 1973, ERA was relatively consistent across the AL and the NL. Some years the AL was higher and some years the NL was higher. This could be due to better pitchers playing in one league during a given year. The first big change that we notice is in 1973. After this rule change, we start to see the AL having a higher ERA than the NL consistently. The DH rule likely played a large role in this increase in AL ERA. The DH rule allows players that specialize in hitting to play baseball, as they do not need to work on their fielding skills. Having better hitters in the league would make baseball harder for pitchers. They would be more likely to give up runs, and therefore, we see a higher ERA for the AL pitchers in these years.

While we do not have many years of the NL having a DH rule, we can see in our limited sample size that the ERA between the leagues is more consistent when both leagues have the DH rule. This is likely due to both leagues having a similar offensive advantage. It will be interesting to revisit this in a couple years to see how the ERA compares when the NL has more years of the DH.

**Plot 2: Slugging Percentage Over Time**

**A graph of a graph

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From this plot, we can see similarities to the plot above. Prior to the DH rule, slugging percentage was relatively consistent between the leagues. There was a streak in which the NL had a higher slugging percentage, but eventually the AL took over. Similar to ERA, we see the AL consistently have a higher slugging percentage than the NL once the DH rule goes into effect. Again, this is likely due to the DH rule since this rule allows for talented hitters to focus exclusively on their hitting abilities.

The NL does not surpass the AL in slugging percentage until they implemented the DH rule in their own league. Additionally, during 2021 when the NL removed their DH rule for a year, the AL again had a higher slugging percentage. This adds some validity to the DH rule playing a large role in the slugging percentage of a given league. It will be interesting to revisit this once we have data on more seasons.