**What are the things you feel students will learn in your course which are useful to future employers?**

Employers want two kinds of sql programmers:

1. Employers want people who can tie together application/web development (java, ruby, perl, python, etc) with backend database programming (sql)
2. Employers want sql programmers who are advanced enough to write complex report queries, typically with a report tool like Crystal Reports or Business Objects.

By completing this course, students will have enough proficiency to satisfy the sql portion of web development (#1), and will have sufficient mastery of the basics to continue on to learn more advanced sql (#2).

**What are the learning goals you have for the course?**

Students who successfully complete the course will

* Have a solid grasp of basic database objects like tables (rows and columns), indexes, constraints and their relationships
* Have an excellent understanding of the grammar of sql (SELECT, FROM, WHERE, GROUP BY, ORDER BY)
* Be familiar with documentation such that they will be able to quickly learn and pick up new functions or adapt their knowledge for different database flavors.
* Be familiar with SET operators and subqueries
* Understand how and when to use DML statements (INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE)
* Have a basic understanding of transactions

**What are the things you are having your students do in the class to demonstrate these?**

A portion of class time will be devoted to introducing new topics and working through them together. The rest of class time will be for students to develop and apply their knowledge on a semester-long project of their choosing that will be subdivided into three project-based learning segments. Students will demonstrate growth by submitting each mini-project for review, in accordance with weekly assignments.

**What else are you having them do?**

A large component of the class is communication and collaboration. As such, students will be documenting their progress publicly, and develop a portfolio using online tools like SQL Fiddle and the Google office suite (Docs, Sheets, Fusion Tables, etc).

The semester projects are meant to help students grapple with the concept of telling a story with data; they are not meant to be stand-alone applications. Students will pick a project and optionally work in groups to explore, discover and analyze the data using queries with the end goal of developing a narrative, using sql, to make a point about culture or society.