Ultimately, you have to decide how involved you want to be. I am going to lay out a number of resources I will use this semester with the assumption that students will be following along on their own. We will spend the first day making sure everyone is comfortable with the below resources. A vast majority of the time we will use the Konagora or SQL Fiddle website.

**Recommended text (purely optional, nothing will be assigned from the book)**

“[SQL Success](http://www.amazon.com/SQL-Success-St%C3%A9phane-Faroult-ebook/dp/B00FA7C0BU/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_2/185-7338029-9606605?ie=UTF8&qid=1435776788&sr=8-2-fkmr0&keywords=stephen+faroult)” by Stéphane Faroult

Other reference materials

[MySQL language reference](http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.7/en/sql-syntax.html)

[SQL Server language reference](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb510741.aspx)

**SQL Sandbox (public, online databases to practice queries)**

[SQL Fiddle](http://sqlfiddle.com/) (+): I strongly encourage you to save your semester projects here as your portfolio

[Konagora](http://edu.konagora.com/SQLsandbox.php#): companion site for the “SQL Success” book; we will use this a lot in class

* signing up/registering/creating a login is strongly recommended so you can save your work

**Your own database**

* You can download [mysql](https://dev.mysql.com/downloads/) or [MS SQL Server](http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/products/sql-server-editions/sql-server-express.aspx) for free
* [sqlite](https://www.sqlite.org/): an extremely lightweight database with almost zero overhead - there are options for either a [command-line version](https://www.sqlite.org/download.html) or a [Firefox add-on extension](https://addons.mozilla.org/En-us/firefox/addon/sqlite-manager/) (I recommend the Firefox version).
* class mysql server (host=onyx.csit.parkland.edu port=35001); please request an account if you want one
* if you decide to use a mysql database, I recommend a SQL client like [MySQL Workbench](https://www.mysql.com/products/workbench/).

**Semester project**

Students will select a project that they will work on throughout the semester. I have three general ideas you can start with, but I encourage you to find your own:

1. Using Federal Census data, generate a report on the change in demographics in zip code 61820 from 2000 to 2010
2. Using a database I provide access to, determine the trend of overchosen schools in Champaign Unit 4
3. Analyze posts on StackOverflow via [StackExchange](http://data.stackexchange.com/stackoverflow/queries)
4. Complete and populate the [Human Kinetics job application database](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NPLChpnP5CmH6YGr_7gw0XF1u7z0ud6TTICZ5zkrTC4/edit?usp=sharing)

You will provide “snapshots” demonstrating what you are learning at four (4) different times during the semester.