Student Self Assessment

1. I was most proud of the 3D ness of the data. I had not expected to make something like that, but the visualization really surprised me in how well it looked and how exciting the lines were in a 3D environment. I liked looking at the data in a 3D view.
2. If I had more time, I would have found better data to visualize. There were few apparent trends in the data. There were too many countries and GDP data simply varied too much. If I had more time, I would spend more time browsing the internet for interesting data to visualize and work with than CO2/GDP.
3. I learned that managing large data sets can be time consuming for the computer to process, especially if the data is very large. Although my data set was not extremely large, I could still see my computer slow down as it was reading in the data. Iterating through the data also took a considerable amount of time. Too much data can be bad for framerate purposes.
4. When people walked away I wanted people to be amazed at the 3D line graph. Although it only started out as a 2D graph, I wanted people to look at it, adjust the slider, and be excited that is was actually 3D and that they could fly through all of the data. This was also very exciting for me to see and watch as I played with the data.
5. By completing this capstone project, I feel like I have mastered drawing lines and reading data. These two concepts were used extensively through the project, and I have had a lot of experience with these. As a result, I feel like I have mastered these two concepts.
6. My greatest challenge in writing this software was finding the motivation to write it. CO2/GDP was not particularly interesting to me, so I was not very motivated to look at the visualization and discover any trends or features in the data. I overcame this challenge by knowing that the project was due soon and my teacher had high expectations for us, as he believes that we are all super smart highly talented stem students.
7. The most useful resource that I found that helped me prepare my final product was the internet. I use the internet for a number of things, including help with coding. The internet was particularly useful for this project because it provided a number of examples of code that helped me with getting my project to run properly. The internet also showed me some of the most efficient ways of doing things.
8. Some of the take aways I have from this is knowledge of how drawing objects works. From this class I learned how to draw shapes in Processing. This knowledge is important in that I had not known how to draw shapes in Processing before this. I now know that code can be used for many purposes such as data visualization.
9. Compared to java, Processing is extremely similar and is actually built on top of java. The processing editor is very slow and buggy. Eclipse runs much more quickly and bug free. Java is much more hard core code and more pure. Processing to very simplified and is much more bloated that straight java.
10. During this class, one aha moment for me was when I created a project in Eclipse that used the processing libraries. When I did this, I realized the weaknesses in Processing and the fakeness of the public and private declarations in Processing, since it simplifies everything so much that all the classes are almost smashed together into one unified file.
11. If I were to continue studying processing or visual design, I would study 3D and recursive shapes and other well known drawings more extensively because that was what I expected we would be doing in the class but we did not. I had expected that we would learn all about math and shapes and processing and 3D but instead we focused on illusions and data visualization.
12. If I were to teach the class, I would use canvas for turning in projects, instead of email. This creates a MUCH better environment for looking at what is due and who has or has not turned in work. This would have greatly enhance my experience in class by letting me see my grades and know that turning in work has made a difference. I would also follow the processing textbook much more closely. Working on data visualization and optical illusions did little with my learning experience. A lot of it felt like busy work that had no real learning experience.