1 the assignment

1. email me some maps (or link to where they are, say google drive, dropbox, etc), typically say 3-10, in rare cases one map may be enough but only if it is truly outstandingly sophisticated; in some other cases you may submit more maps, say 15 or 20, but please, do not submit more than 20

2. maps need to be "interesting" and "pretty"; have legend and title, cut decimal points, make fonts small, space used efficiently, etc (all the stuff we've discussed)

3. there need to be some description of the maps, typically say several pages, but again, in rare circumstances, couple paragraphs would suffice (if there is some extraordinary sophistication) or there may be more text say 5-10 pages, but please do not have more than 10 pages of text (double spaced); excluding metadata, and journal (if any)–if you submit more than 10 pages of text, I will only read first 10 pages

4. give much thought to the key vairables, think about classification methods, don't forget about including a histogram!

5. maps and text may be in the same document, but they can be separately, too

6. text must be pdf or txt or html; maps (if submitted separately) can be in any format

7. include raw gis data (e.g. .shp .dbf and .shx and others if any) that you used to produce a map

8. include **all** gis and regular data that you will use for merging, say excel or text or sas file, etc (if any)

9. include "metadata" containing at least: what is U/A; # of obs; data source name, including url

10. do **not** need a "journal" that explains steps–e.g. how you merged gis data with regular data: any problems you encountered, any additional steps you had to take to clean data/recode variables/change storage type etc; but you may include it if it helps to make your case for a good GIS project–it does not have to be as detailed as earlier in ps, may just only list very major steps; or in fact do not really need journal–because there will be some description of what you did in text anyway

2 what i am looking for

the most important is idea–be interesting, engaging, tell a story !

contribute–either do something that no one did, or do it better than done earlier

i prefer less than more–I look for quality, not quantity–avoid padding, be clear and to the point

show some sophistication–use very complicated data, make complicated calculations, use complicated tools, etc

must use some (not necessarily all) of [the bonus tools (spatial statistics, online mapping) or advanced QGIS features (geoprocessing like buffering or dissolve or spatial join etc; or advanced SQL; or Python plugins, etc)]

3 tips, tricks, and usual problems or omissions

submit unofficial early draft (in addition to ps6)

make sure you say how your study compare to others? how is it better? what is your contribution?

make sure your map is correct!–i will penalize wrong calculations, interpretations, inconsistencies, etc, etc

remember metadata, data sources, and attach all data you have used!