C. Klinger

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EMAT 62110-001

Project Milestone 2

Finally, for good or bad, I have settled on using the data collected from the FBI. As I have continued to work with this data for milestone two, I have reached a conclusion that the data that I have is not quality data. There are far too many inconsistencies and missing values for me to think otherwise. Some states like Florida and Alabama have little to no reporting and this clearly impacts the overall results of my analysis. With those two states having little reporting, this leads me to question the validity of data that has been provided by the remaining states. One would hope that the information exchanged between the states and the FBI is reasonably accurate and complete. However, I am not confident on either count as it relates to my data.

Moving into the data visualization phase of my final project, this second milestone had been earmarked to “Examine data and visualization options and determine strong arguments”. While I have been attempting to find a story, I cannot say that I have found any strong arguments. What I have found are some potential areas of interest that warrant additional investigation. The stories the data appears to tell circle back to the focus on stricter legislation around rifles. The data, while questionable, does reveal that rifles are NOT a significant subset of weapons used in homicides. I believe this is the driving question that my project addresses. It focuses on the notion that rifles are not inherently common in homicides. This is clearly counter to the argument that is being made by many anti-gun pundits. While I had hoped to have three strong reflections, I think I have three decent areas of interest on which to focus as I move forward.

To move to the next phase of this project, I am going to need to take the areas of interest I have identified and look to find additional visualizations that further support the story I believe can be told. There are clear limitations of the data I have curated, as I have previously mentioned. I would prefer having additional reference points for this data such as Assault Rifle sales statistics, or their use in individual vs. mass homicide events, but I will need to work with the information that I currently have. More specifically around the visualizations, I will work to expand the interactive elements of Plotly that may prove beneficial. I have taken into consideration that these interactive options may not align very well with my chosen delivery paths: an informational flyer and PowerPoint presentation.

**Self-Evaluation Grade: B-**

**Personal Critique:** Once we got through the JSON issues with putting visuals on the US map, this made things much clearer. I probably spent too much time focusing on getting something from the maps and should continue down the path of finding other supporting visuals.