



PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

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Washington DC GIS Project

Title: Accessibility to Public Transportation Near Homeless Shelters in DC

Abstract: This report will capture the findings and results from my project that studies the accessibility to public transportation within a specific distance around homeless shelters in Washington, DC. For this project, I only included the Metro system which includes buses and subways. It excludes the free Circulator bus and street cars that are available in certain areas around DC. The file of homeless shelters I used includes 18 shelters spread out within DC. The goal of this project was to discover how many public transportation stops are within half a mile of a homeless shelter and then analyze which areas are being served well and others that could use more services. I chose to set the distance at half a mile because that is a reasonable walking distance that most people could handle. I discovered that overall, the middle of the city has the heaviest concentration of shelters that also have the most access to public transportation stops. The outliers are at the lower end of stops available, but there are still plenty of options. In general, Washington DC has a very effective public transportation system.

Introduction: This project is interested in evaluating how accessible the homeless shelters in Washington DC are to public transportation stops. This issue involves the homeless population of DC and any others that may use the services that shelters provide. I chose this topic because I spent last summer in DC and used the public transportation a significant amount as well as worked with the homeless population in DC quite a bit. I learned that since it is true that owning vehicles or ordering Ubers may not be a luxury these people have, public transportation is extremely important and must be available to them. Without it, there would be no way to get to doctor appointments, stores, or any other resource that they may need. I believe this is an essential component of helping to integrate those experiencing homelessness back into the community. Affordability of public transportation is another issue that I would like to review, but I don't think it would be appropriate in the scope of this project.

In order to proceed after this project, it would be helpful to involve the local government in DC in addition to people who regularly use the services homeless shelters provide. Working together, it would be easier to recommend locations for new shelters that would be easily accessible by public transportation and where there could be more public transportation stops around areas that these people commonly need to access. Another extension to this project could be to add in more factors to look at including the demographics such as income, ethnicity, age, etc. This data could give further insight into how to better the public transportation to serve the needs of not only the homeless population, but also the population as a whole in DC. For now, I will discuss the question that I decided to study: How effective is the DC Metro system in regards to

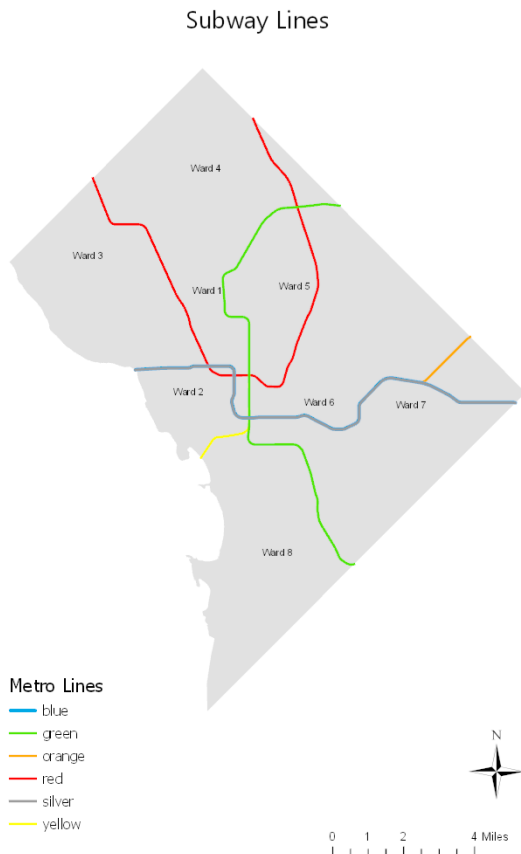
homeless shelters throughout the area?

Data and Methodology:

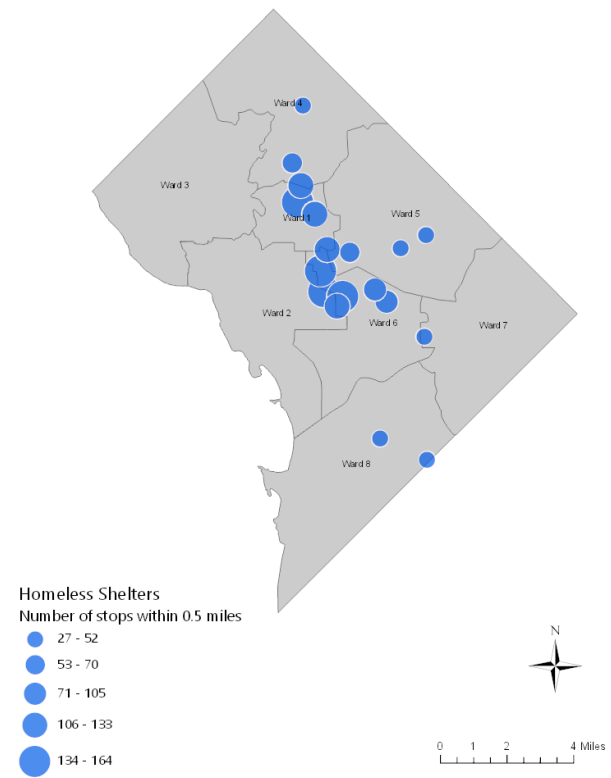
I got most of my data from the DC government website at <http://opendata.dc.gov/>. The website was very easily accessed and the data was separated into categories that made it easy to find. Most of the data that I needed was under the 'Transportation' category and then I searched for the rest of the data by using keywords such as 'homeless' and 'wards'. The website includes a brief description of what the data contains and is available to download as a spreadsheet, shapefile, and KML. I downloaded the shapefiles: "Metro Lines", "Metro Bus Stops", "Metro Stations in DC", "Wards from 2012", "Homeless Service Facilities", and "Homeless Shelter Locations". Once I downloaded all of the data I needed, I created a folder titled 'Project' and copied it all to there so that it would be easy to find later. I uploaded all of the shapefiles to ArcMap and started my analysis.

The first thing I did was change the symbology of the "Wards from 2012" layer in order to display a soft background and to separate the wards by number so that they could be labeled. The shapefiles, "Metro Bus Stops" and "Metro Stations in DC" included stops that were outside of the District limits, so I needed to eliminate those points. I used the 'Intersect' tool to intersect each of the shapefiles with the "Wards from 2012" shapefile so that I was left with only the points that were inside or on the border of the District. Next, I added the "Homeless Shelter Locations" shapefile to the map. In order to define an area of half a mile around each location, I used the 'Buffer' tool and set a distance of 0.5 miles. This created rings around each point, so that I could see the points contained within the buffer. I could have manually counted all the points in each buffer, but I let the software complete this analysis. I used the 'Intersect' tool again to display only the bus and subway points, now named "MetroinDC" and "BusinDC", within the buffer layer I just created. Then, I had to do a table join to join the bus and subway stop layers, newly named "BusinBuff" and "MetroinBuff", to the "Homeless Shelter Locations" layer. This allowed me to use the 'Sum' function to count the number of bus/subway stops within the buffered layer. This gave me a new column in the attribute table labeled, 'Count1'. The last step was to change the symbology of this layer to represent the 'Count1' column as proportional symbols that reflect the number of Metro stops within each shelter. I split the data into five categories using natural breaks and the number of stops within half a mile of each shelter ranged from 27 to 164 stops. The different classes are 27 – 52, 53 – 70, 71 – 105, 106 – 133, 134 – 164; so there is an average of about 30 stops within each class. There are six shelters in the first class, two in the second class, two in the third class, four in the fourth class, and four in the top class with the most stops.

The second map was much simpler, because it just shows the routes of the subway lines in the district. The only thing I had to do for this map is symbolize it by 'unique values' and chose the field 'NAME' so that I could change the colors of the lines to match their appropriate label and increase the thickness of each line so that they would be easier to see and follow on the map. Overall, the GIS analysis for my project was not too technically difficult, but it was very effective to show the results I needed. I successfully manipulated the data in order to show which shelters had more or less access to public transportation compared to others in the same region.



Public Transportation Accessibility to Homeless Shelters in DC



Discussion: The analysis for this project didn't use very complex tools of GIS, but it still proved to be very helpful. GIS helped me perform very practical tasks such as measuring, counting, and labeling. Obviously, it gave me insight into the distribution of homeless shelters around DC by plotting the exact location of 18 shelters. From this information alone, I can say that most homeless shelters are located in the center of the city with 5-6 outliers being a significant distance away from the center. One thing to note about this is that there are generally more people in the center of the city, especially around Union Station and Chinatown, which are off of the red line right around where it intersects with the blue and green lines. Drawing from my own personal observations and experiences, there is a large homeless population around these two areas, so the shelters seem to be well-placed. Another fact that tends to be true in regards to DC is that the northwest and southwest quadrants are more wealthy than the northeast and southeast quadrants, which could mean that there is a bigger need for shelters in the east than in the west. The map also accurately displays this by showing a greater presence of homeless shelters in the east compared to the western half of the district.

The second aspect to my analysis in my project is the effectiveness of the public transportation system in Washington, DC. Like I mentioned earlier, I only included the subway and bus stops that are a part of the Metro System for my project. But there are many other forms

of public transportation in DC such as the free Circulator bus, free streetcars, and other second- party

businesses or organizations that provide transportation services to the public. According to my analysis, the Metro System in DC is extremely effective in covering the areas around homeless shelters. The shelters in the middle of the city generally had bigger dots, meaning there are more stops within half a mile of them. The lowest number of stops within half a mile of a certain shelter was 27, which is still a significant amount. Another observation that I had was that a large portion of the shelters fell along the route of the green line, which was very interesting to me. At the south end of the green line, is Anacostia, a place known for crime and danger; through the middle, is the heart of DC with popular tourist locations and work places; and on the north end of the line, it goes into Prince Georges County, another section that is known for crime and danger.

The attribute table that came with the “Homeless Shelter Locations” shapefile included data on who they serve and how to access that service, so I looked through the data to see if I could find any patterns. One thing that I found interesting was that shelters that claimed to be a ‘permanent’ or ‘transitional’ residence, were on the higher end of the number of public transportation stops around it. On the other hand, shelters that claimed to be a ‘Low Barrier’ residence had less stops surrounding it. A reason for this could be that if someone is really in need and needs a permanent or transitional shelter, they would also need easy access to that service. The other observation I had was that there were more shelters available for men than women, but both had equal access via public transportation. However, there were three shelters available for youth/minors, but they did not have as many stops surrounding them as the others. The youth shelter that sticks out the most is the Covenant House in southeast DC, which is in the lowest class of number of stops. This concerns me because it is probable that youth/minors do not have as much access to their own transportation and would need to rely on public transportation even more than adults.

Conclusions: In conclusion, my project and analysis helped me to answer my research question of: How effective is the DC Metro system in regards to homeless shelters throughout the area? My final thoughts are that the DC Metro system is very effective in reaching and allowing access to homeless shelters throughout the area. I came to this conclusion by realizing that even 27 stops within half of a mile is plenty; not to mention some shelters that have upwards of 150 stops. Along with the analysis that GIS provided, I was able to use personal experience and observations in order to come to a conclusion.

Overall, there could be a better distribution of shelters outside of the center of the city, because there is available public transportation that stretches outside of the center as well. Of course, there could be other factors that I was not able to look at in terms of this project to measure the effectiveness of public transportation in DC. These things could include areas where there is a heavier density of homeless people, areas where there is not much development, the cost of public transportation, and various demographic data. This issue is very important right now in Washington DC, because they are in the process of opening up a new shelter in each of the eight wards to replace the DC General, a shelter that housed over 200 families, which was shut down due to the new Amazon headquarters location. I believe that the city government and

planning commission should be considering accessibility to public transportation as one of the factors on where to build these new shelters.

This project helped me gain insight into how public transportation works within a city and I hope to work in this department in another city. Washington DC is an example of a city with

very effective public transportation, but it could be interesting to look at a similar question in other cities.

Every city also has a population of people who are experiencing homelessness that could benefit from efficient public transportation not only to available shelters, but also other places around the city.

Career Informational Interview

One thing that I have learned through this class and specifically this interview, is that the geography industry is unlike any other and takes preparation and practice to navigate. I am thankful for the geography department at UT who has helped us navigate post-graduation life and has given us the tools and tips to succeed while we are here. For my informational interview, I interviewed Hallie Dilworth, a UT alumna who graduated in 2017 with a degree in Geography. We scheduled a phone call for right after she got off of work at 4pm her time and 7pm my time. She is currently working as a GIS Data Analyst at Apple Inc. in Silicon Valley, CA. This position is a one year contracted job that offers a couple months of extension on the end. I chose to interview Hallie because working for Apple obviously sounds intriguing, but I also admire her ambitions and think that our passions would be similarly aligned. Although reaching out to Hallie was not out of my comfort zone, I learned a lot from our conversation and she gave me some advice on how to continue in my journey.

The first question I asked her is what path she took from graduation to get the job she has now. I learned that she ended up doing an internship in Bolivia without the intentions of it helping her GIS resume, but it ended up being one of the biggest boosters she has had on her resume. She collected GIS field data and used QGIS to analyze it and make maps. This has recently proven to be an experience that always stands out on her resume and has definitely helped her receive jobs after that, including her current job with Apple. I realized that just because a job description or company doesn't mention GIS, that doesn't mean that they couldn't use it or that it wouldn't be beneficial. All experiences are valuable and are going to contribute to future potential jobs.

In describing her day to day life, she expressed that Apple is a pretty private company and she was not allowed to share much. What I did find out though, is that she is a part of a 6-member team that works under 1 manager. She explained that most of her day and schedule involves working with them on testing new software ideas and methods in order to make Apple Maps a more efficient and accurate resource for people. I learned how important it is that you are able to work and communicate with a team, but also have the ability to listen and follow the requests of a manager or director. This was the skill that she emphasized has been most important in her career experience so far. Along with this, we discussed the importance of willingness and readiness to learn new software and programs that you might not have known before. Apple is a unique example, because they use their own software for GIS data, instead of ESRI or QGIS. This required the skills to learn quickly and practice the things that she had learned in her job.

Hallie was very honest with me about the struggle that finding a job can be, but that there is hope because everyone does it and she has found a job that she really enjoys. She described the atmosphere of Apple being laid-back and innovative, it is mostly young people in her office, and she has the freedom to wear whatever she wants to work. While she was telling me that, I realized how important the environment of my future job would be to me. I tend to be a laid-back person, so a high stress, fast-paced work environment might not be the most suitable for me. Overall, Hallie expressed the difficulty being a geographer can be in the professional world, but the benefits of loving what you do and finding a job that aligns with your passions is really what matters.

Spanish Writing Sample

Analisis de temas de Rulfo

En su cuento, “Nos han dado la tierra” Rulfo representa la Revolución Mexicana a través de mucha ironía y la perspectiva de algunos revolucionarios. Rulfo dio su mensaje en sólo seis páginas. Su mensaje de la Revolución es simple: Todos han caminado más de lo que cubrieron. Esto significa que la Revolución Mexicana costó más de lo que logró. También, Rulfo discute los eventos de la Revolución con los cuatro personajes principales, el vínculo entre el silencio y la naturaleza, y se enfocó en algunos logros y fracasos de la Revolución.

El silencio tiene un papel específico en el cuento. El llano está lleno de silencio, lo que representa la desesperación y concentra el calor que los personajes sienten. El llano no tiene nada animales o árboles o lluvia y el narrador comenta en este hecho mucho. Pienso que el momento más profundo del silencio es cuando la gota de agua cae. Es una acción totalmente silenciosa y representa perfectamente la desolación y la falta de esperanza por los revolucionarios en la Revolución Mexicana. El narrador dice, “Y a la gota caída por equivocación se la come la tierra y la desaparece en su sed” (Rulfo 40). Nadie dice nada sobre que pasó. Más silencio. Esto es un ejemplo del vínculo entre el silencio y la naturaleza que Rulfo usa para mostrar la desesperación durante este tiempo. Otro ejemplo, es en el fin cuando los chicos llegan a la tierra cerca del río que tiene mucha vida con pasturas y árboles verdes y sonidos de los animales. En este escenario, no hay silencio, sino hay esperanza de una vida llena con animales y tierra buena.

El silencio también tiene un papel entre las relaciones de los personajes principales. Muchas veces, la única respuesta que tienen es de silencio porque no tienen nada de motivación. En un momento, el narrador expresa, “No decimos lo que pensamos” (Rulfo 40). Pienso que el silencio entre los personajes es una cosa buena porque si dicen lo que quieren, se sentirían mucho más frustrados.

En total, Rulfo habla de los logros y los fracasos de la Revolución Mexicana a través de ellos nos muestra la ironía del conflicto. Por un rato, los pobres pensaban que tenían poder y una voz, pero realmente el gobierno no los ayuda y los da a tierra que fue sin uso. En “Nos han dado la tierra,” Rulfo representa la falta de ayuda y apoyo los revolucionarios recibieron por la

Revolución Mexicana. Usa el peso de silencio para ilustrar las emociones de la Revolución.

Resume

ESPN Global Mapping Project

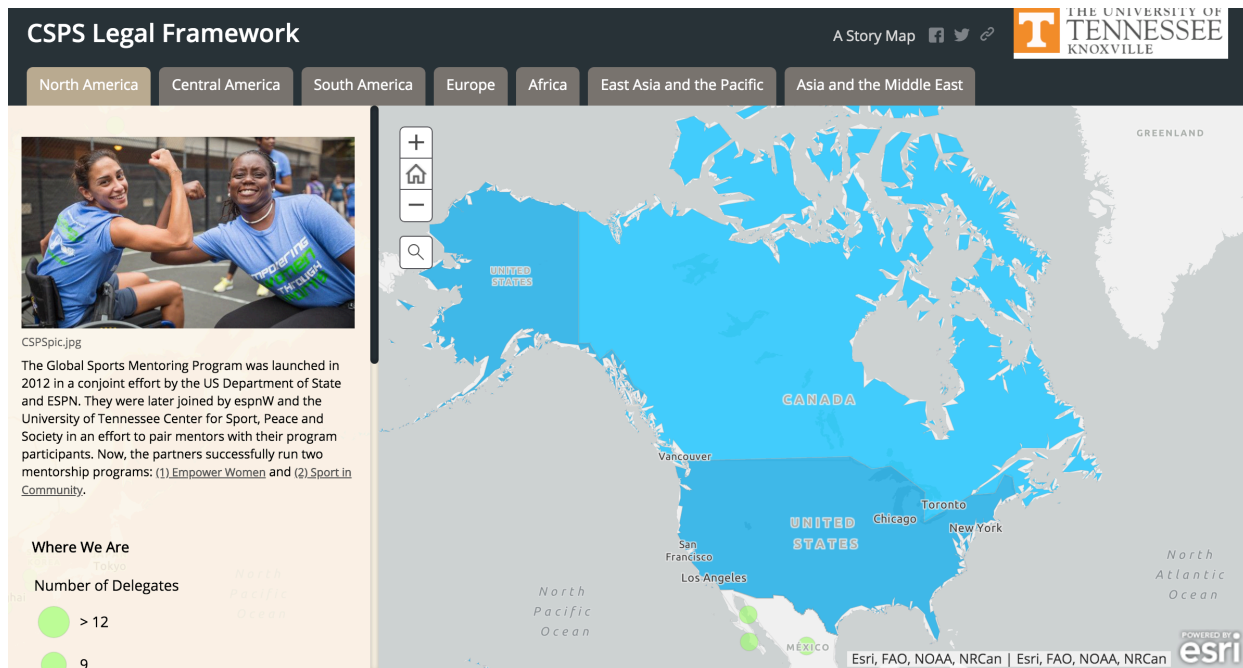
A part of the GIS in the Community class and internship with the Center for Sport, Peace and Society.

What is the goal of GIS in the Community?

We implement geospatial information systems in collaboration with professional clients to showcase what GIS is capable of and learn how to develop a high-quality project in a professional setting.

What was the project for CSPS?

Our project with the Center for Sport, Peace and Society is to create an interactive map that our clients can use to display data that they have collected on gender equality in sports around the world. The main goal is to have an easily-accessible and user-friendly map that allows delegates from countries near and far to evaluate the legal framework within sports in surrounding areas. This would create inspiration and more space to bring equality and make a difference in their own communities.



link to project

Job Fair Report

The University of Tennessee brings in a numerous amount of companies each year in order to host job fairs for students seeking employment after graduation or internships during summers or semesters at UT. They provide a variety of options, so that every major and student is included. These are: Engineering/STEM, Supply Chain Management, Business/Retail/ Government, Communication and Information, and Agriculture job fields. I attended the Business/Retail/Government Job and Internship on September 25th from 3-6pm. I got there around 3:30 in my business casual clothes and stayed for an hour. The first little bit, I got a professional head shot taken that I can use in my portfolio and I took a lap around the concourse to observe what companies were there and who I was interested in talking to. This was the first job fair that I have been to, so I was nervous at first but I found a group of fellow geographers and we gave each other a little support and confidence. I noticed that a lot of the representatives from companies were wearing 'Alumni' ribbons, which was a comforting and promising sign.

During the time that I was at the fair, I ended up talking to Internal Data Resources (idr), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Washington State Penitentiary (Washington Department of Corrections). I learned the most from talking to the Washington State Penitentiary, because that was the first time I had to market geography and why I could possibly fit there. In my mind, there were possibilities of mapping populations or resources in the area in order to assist development, but that was hard to see for them. I talked to Internal Data Resources because my cousin was there promoting it, but I didn't even know she would be! It was a good reminder that it really is about who all you know. My interaction with the DEA was extremely casual and the agent talked to a group of six of us. I learned from him that drug use is a huge disqualifier and that the DEA is truly wanting to diversify their staff with women and various ethnic groups and ages. The DEA is hiring for special agents in Louisville, KY. Idr is hiring mostly Marketing majors and the Penitentiary was hiring a wide range of majors.

Job fairs are all about putting yourself out there and learning how you can be a better candidate for the each of the millions of job opportunities there are in the world. I learned that you have to take initiative, step up confidently, and promote yourself and the unique skills and passions you may have. I also learned that most employers and organizations aren't that intimidating and it can simply be asking them questions about what they're looking for and the skills they see people use in order to be successful. Overall, I would rate my job fair experience as positive. Even though I wasn't intensely searching for a job or an internship, I'm glad that I took the time to dress professionally, approach professional adults, and participate in professional conversations. The experience will be helpful in the future when I am interviewing or enjoying a work social event. I also realized more about myself in what I am looking for in a job and how my skill sets can be applied in those places.

If I could do anything differently, I think that I would have gone to the Engineering/STEM job fair instead. Since I am a GIS concentration, the STEM field seems more relevant to what I would be interested in. I would also research the businesses or organizations more before I went so that I could ask more questions and get a better idea of what they do and what they are looking for. I think that job fairs are a great opportunity to 'get your feet wet' and learn more about yourself and about the work world.

Clifton Strengths Finder

My five Signature Themes are:

1. Harmony
2. Arranger
3. Developer
4. Adaptability
5. Belief

Right off the bat, I can see all five of these themes in myself. I am most surprised by the Developer theme and the order that Harmony and Belief scored. After reading the Strengths Insight Guide and the Signature Themes Report, these are my reflections on each theme:

1. **Harmony** – I really agree with this one. I believe that having harmony in a workspace or in your friend circles is important, but I also realize that conflict is inevitable. That's when the confrontational part of me can come out as a way to re-establish harmony and teamwork. The only thing that I question is that, "little is gained from conflict and friction." I actually think that conflict can be necessary sometimes and can cause growth if handled the right way. I am always easy to get along with and I know this will be a useful skill when I enter a job.
2. **Arranger** – I also really agree with this one! The description seems to put me in a leadership role, which I often really enjoy because I tend to see a bigger picture with smaller moving parts. One "Aha!" moment from this theme is the role that a person of authority has had in my life to point out strengths in me. I can think of an example for each category: a math teacher in middle school telling me that I was really gifted, which helped me realize my logical side; a coach in high school who realized my leadership qualities and signed me up for a leadership course; and a mentor who has pointed out numerous strengths in me so that I can be a more confident and equipped person to help others. I think the phrase, "effective flexibility" sums it up well.
3. **Developer** – I feel like other people fuel this strength! I have been known to see the best in people and especially recognize their potential. If I can be a part of helping someone recognize their strengths or learn something new, it gives me confidence too! I think that this part of me will help me build a sense of trust and respect within my work community.
4. **Adaptability** – I think I mostly agree with this one. I definitely agree that I am a flexible person and am able to go with the flow. One thing that I am unsure of is the dislike of following someone else's plan. I actually like structure and appreciate having someone above me to guide and support me. My internship this summer was the perfect balance for me: my boss gave me guidelines and checked in about once a week, but I was able to work on it at my own pace and deal with problems as they arose.
5. **Belief** – I think this theme connects well with the "Developer" theme, because the motivation behind both traits is to make a difference in someone's life. According to the test, I value "responsibility and high ethics – both in yourself and others" and this is very true. This theme also claims that my work must be meaningful to me, which I could not imagine having a job that I didn't believe in or think was making an impact in my life and others around me.

Action-Planning Tool checklist:

1. **Harmony**

- ✓ “Use your Harmony talents to build a network of people with differing perspectives. Rely on these people when you need expertise. Your openness to these differing perspectives will help you learn.”
- ✓ “Create interactions and forums in which people feel like their opinions are truly being heard. In doing so, you will help others become more engaged in group projects and activities.”

2. **Arranger**

- ✓ “Be sure to keep track of ongoing deadlines for your many tasks, projects, and obligations. Although you enjoy the chance to juggle lots of activities, others with less powerful Arranger talents may become anxious if they don’t see you working on their projects frequently. Inform them of your progress to ease their fears.”

3. **Developer**

- ✓ “Notice when others succeed, and tell them. Be specific about what you saw. Your detailed observations of what led to their victory will enhance their growth.”
- ✓ “Don’t over-invest in losing causes. Your natural inclination to see the best in people and situations can create a blind spot that will keep you from moving on to more opportune situations.”
- ✓ “Identify the mentor or mentors who recognized something special inside you. Take the time to thank them for helping you develop, even if this means tracking down a former schoolteacher and sending him or her a letter.”

4. **Adaptability**

- ✓ “Cultivate your reputation as a calm and reassuring person when others become upset by daily events.”
- ✓ “Look to others for planning. People who have strong Focus, Strategic, or Belief talents can help you shape your long-term goals, leaving you to excel at dealing with the day-to-day variations.”

5. **Belief**

- ✓ “Actively seek roles that fit your values. In particular, think about joining organizations that define their purpose by the contribution they make to society.”
- ✓ “The meaning and purpose of your work will often provide direction for others. Remind people why their work is important and how it makes a difference in their lives and in the lives of others.”
- ✓ “Don’t be afraid to give voice to your values. This will help others know who you are and how to relate to you.”
- ✓ “Actively cultivate friends who share your basic values. Consider your best friend. Does this person share your value system?”
- ✓ “Accept that the values of other people might differ from your own. Express your beliefs without being judgmental.”

Mentoring

The article, “Why Mentoring Matters, and How to Get Started” by Lizz Schumer explains the benefits of mentorship in today’s society and specifically, the workforce. The relationship that a mentorship provides has proved especially impactful for women, both the mentor and the mentee. These people have made meaningful connections that have not only allowed them to gain different perspectives from their own, but is the reason why the majority of people earn their jobs. Mentorship can also be found outside of the workplace. These are valuable if you have questions that you may not want to ask someone you work with or that have no relevance to the work. The article also explains what makes a mentorship effective, such as stating your goals for the relationship and maintaining an open and respectful atmosphere.

I could not agree with this article more. The mentors that I have and have had in my life have some of the biggest impacts and influences on my life. I consistently meet with a woman who is older than me and even though she is outside of my work interest, I value her advice and direction so much. I have learned from her experience finding a job and before I even started college, I saw the way she worked at it in order to be successful. I am able to be honest about my worries and hesitations, as well as my triumphs and encouragements. This allows me the freedom to process decisions and other life things with someone who supports me and in a safe place, as the article mentions. On the other side, mentors who are not good leaders and struggle to encourage their mentees can have the opposite effect. In my experience with a bad mentor, I felt much less confident in my ability to complete my job and much less flexibility to learn and mess up. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that mentors have the potential to greatly impact your life and if established in a healthy way, can truly accelerate your career and life.

Self-Reflection

I came into college as a Kinesiology major because I have always known that my brain is more math and science oriented and I also enjoyed sports and recreational activities. After freshman year, I knew that I did not want to be a physical therapist but I had no clue where I wanted to go. During my sophomore year I was undecided and leaning towards a major within the business college, but I wasn't excited about it. During my freshman year, I took Geography 121 and 111 as electives, but they ended up catching my attention and keeping my interest. After learning about how I can combine my passions for social and community issues (Geog 121) with my skills in science and technology (Geog 111), majoring in Geospatial Science and Technology seemed like the perfect fit. This concentration was a new option at UT, as I had a friend who graduated two years ago with a pure Geography major because there didn't used to be concentrations. Honestly, that didn't make me nervous but I wasn't 100% convinced in the future track that Geography had to offer or if my skills matched up perfectly. My doubts, however, have been assuaged and I am really enjoying the last semesters of my major.

I chose the GIS concentration because I figured that it would give me the most exposure to technological programs and platforms that would be hard to learn once I was out of school, and after taking the introductory GIS course, I truly did enjoy learning how to use it. The Geography department at UT has done a fantastic job of providing students with information about the places and opportunities we can take our majors after graduation by bringing in guest speakers, former students, articles, and personal experiences. I have learned that I have opportunities in the public and private sectors, government or business realms, and even in places I would never expect like my internship this summer.

One of the biggest surprises and most helpful experiences during my undergrad time has been my summer and current internship with the Center for Sport, Peace and Society at UT. This past summer, I served as their research intern and collected information on various laws and policies on gender equality in sports around the world. This had nothing to do with geography until they mentioned that they had all of this money and ideas for a research project, but no final product in mind. Because of my background, I was able to suggest a vision of making an interactive map that their delegates all over the world could easily access with all of the information we had collected in order to facilitate their programs and goals overseas. Fortunately, my boss trusted me enough to further investigate, so I went to Dr. Tran and asked if I could make this project my independent study. He suggested that it would be a perfect fit in his GIS in the Community class, so fast forward to today and that vision is coming true! This was a huge lesson to me that you really can bring the skills a Geography major gives you anywhere and even if it is hard for other people to see or understand, it could be worth it to go for it.

The main knowledge and skills that I have gained from being a geography major are a better understanding of the world as a whole, different perspectives of people who are different than me, and more confidence in my ability to learn and critically think. Solely looking at maps is inevitably going to widen the world view that most people have and I have learned about situations in my local community and the world that I would not have known about. I also really appreciate that the staff of the geography department is extremely diverse. I have felt supported in my endeavors into the Spanish culture by my advisor, Solange Muñoz. I have felt encouraged in my

fresh knowledge of Python and ArcPy by Professor Wu. I have learned an incredible amount about south Asia and the dynamics of race and ethnicity in a city from Dr. Sharma. And I have stayed interested and motivated with my major because of the unique experiences and backgrounds of all of my professors. Most of all, I have learned to have confidence in my ability to learn new things and apply those things critically in the classroom and in my life outside of school. Learning GIS, Python, and R has proved to be a challenge but I have been able to learn each one when I put in effort and trust myself.

I also realize that I have weaknesses and would need to choose a career to support those limitations and help rebuild them. One of my biggest weaknesses is indecisiveness. This would mean that I need to pick a job or organization that does not force me to make constant decisions. This being said, I consider myself a strong leader, because with the help of a team, I love discussing options and getting to work together to overcome problems.

For the future, I have felt a little overwhelmed with all of the possibilities that are out there. I have realized that I appreciate the power that GIS has to be a resource to communities and even businesses and I also believe in the power that sports have to impact communities and help social change. I strive to use my skills and continue to work for the Center for Sport, Peace and Society but I am also open to other ideas. I have applied to work for the government in DC and I am also considering staying in Knoxville to work in their downtown office. Whatever I choose, I know that the department and the professors I have met will be there to support me and help with any questions or concerns I may have. The future is exciting and I look forward to the opportunities I will get to experience.