As the project reaches its close-out stage, I look back to see how much my team and I have achieved over the course over two semesters. Through the ups and downs, and the major milestones we achieved and as project manager of my team, I can safely say that our project has conceded successfully.

Reflecting on, the beginning of the semester was filled with uncertainty as I wasn't confident in my own capabilities and skills that I was able to do the project. To add to this, I wasn't productive at all during the Semester break (Period of Transition from Semester 1 to Semester 2). The research I've done during the break were essentially the same research done to complete the initial project proposal, and I wasn't gaining as many insights and motivation to start with the project. Personally, I was in a mental slump and although my team and I was still communicating and having meetings, we weren't extracting any value from it as all of us had no idea where to start with the project. As project manager, I failed to delegate tasks to my teammates and didn't follow with the initial plans regarding project management, and project timeline as previously mentioned in our project proposal. The situation quickly went from bad to worse.

The downwards reached its worse during Week 3's workshop meeting with our supervisor, where our supervisor provided constructive feedback regarding our very slow progress. It helped me personally to get back on the right track, and it was becoming clearer the tasks that I must complete for the project to be a success. We were able to have a high-level task description filled in our Kanban Boards and it greatly increased my productivity as I was able to set guidelines on what needs to be completed at each week. As project manager, I also clearly delegated tasks to my teammates, which got rid of the burden I had on myself as we initially planned to do everything together without specific task delegation. In addition, we also found references online to projects like us that was set as guidelines for our project and looked back at our project proposal to make sure everything connects smoothly with the current progresses.

A mishap encountered during this time was with our platform choice. As we are using Python to code both predictive model and website, I initially proposed using PyCharm as the application for us to code the predictive model component. Then, we came to realize that we need Jupyter Notebook, so we switched to using Anaconda. But a drawback presented by Anaconda was that it did not directly integrate with the GitHub desktop I have on my local device, which made committing and pushing slightly difficult. As a result, I proposed that we switch over to VS Code as it has Jupyter Notebook extensions as well and GitHub connectivity.

Once this was solved, the progress of our code and project started to move forward, albeit at a slow and steady rate. Due to my unfamiliarity with VS Code's environment, as well as the image classification (batch size, epoch numbers, dataloaders), I felt that my progress was slow compared to others as I had to read articles to make sure I understand what I'm coding and what

algorithms and packages to choose. To add to this, I experienced a bug with the data visualization part caused with my lack of understanding of the code. This was fixed as I got more used to the coding environment and through the articles I saw online regarding this bug. All this progress allowed me to complete my part during the Interim Presentation, and my team and I were able to successfully deliver it.

Continuing, as I oversaw training of the model, I faced difficulty with the training times posed with my current device. This overhead greatly hindered my progresses, and it was clear I needed to find alternatives. One alternative given to me was to use VM Instances in Google Cloud, and I was able to set it up and get it working, but slow internet connections from my area hindered any valuable progress to be done. So, another alternative that I found was to borrow my friend's device that had a better GPU and CPU, and it greatly reduced the training time posed and I was able to conduct more rigorous training on our model. Alongside this, my teammates helped with getting their individual tasks done, so the overall progress made by our team were still positive.

Throughout the project timeline, the team environment was always safe, friendly, and supportive. It was clear that when the tasks were clearly delegated, everyone made sure to finish the tasks before the specified deadlines. We reminded each other through Messenger and in meetings of the tasks to be completed prior to each week. As our team environment was small, we didn't hesitate to help one another in cases of difficulty faced. One of my teammates had difficulty deploying the website on Google Cloud, and I stepped in and helped, and we were able to finally deploy our website on Heroku. Moreover, we weren't afraid to give feedbacks to each other where needed. As project manager, I also paid extra attention to make sure task delegation were given equally to all of us. I do not have anything bad to say to my teammates as they've done a good job and contributed much towards the progresses of the project.

It was a great time and honor to have worked with my teammates, and I'd like to extend my gratitude to the FIT3164 teaching team for this opportunity. Thank you!