

My time in this data science class has been incredibly interesting and eye-opening. Throughout the course, I gained valuable knowledge about Python programming, data science, and even myself. It has been a transformative experience that deepened my understanding of how data science helps us analyze information, uncover trends, and better comprehend complex systems.

One of the most significant takeaways for me was learning to identify my strengths and challenges. I discovered that I enjoy exploring new concepts and finding creative ways to apply them, but I also recognized that I struggle with certain technical aspects, particularly when it comes to understanding how computers operate and working with numbers. This realization became evident during the transatlantic slave trade activity. The abundance of numbers, columns, and data often left me feeling distracted and overwhelmed. While I started the semester with confidence and followed along well, the increasing complexity of the coursework eventually posed challenges for me. However, these obstacles taught me the importance of persistence, patience, and seeking out resources when needed.

The readings were an incredibly helpful resource in bridging the gaps in my understanding. Among them, I found the Melanie Walsh readings particularly beneficial. They provided clear explanations and valuable context, which complemented the technical aspects of the class. I realized that I retain information more effectively when reading compared to listening, an important insight into my learning style. This awareness has helped me approach learning in a way that works best for me, emphasizing the importance of adapting strategies to fit individual needs.

In terms of activities, I especially enjoyed working with lists and loops. Creating lists felt intuitive, and it was one of the easiest tasks for me to grasp. It was satisfying to see how

organizing data into lists could simplify otherwise complex problems. Similarly, loops allowed me to automate repetitive tasks, which highlighted the power of programming in solving real-world problems. These activities were not only engaging but also provided a strong foundation for understanding Python's capabilities.

Through this class, I also developed a deeper appreciation for the intricacies of Python. Its sensitivity to detail, such as distinguishing between uppercase and lowercase letters, taught me the importance of precision and attentiveness. I became familiar with terms like "strings" and "strips," which helped me troubleshoot and fix errors to ensure my code ran properly. These lessons extended beyond programming and underscored the broader significance of accuracy in all aspects of work.

Reflecting on this journey, I recognize the need to improve my time management and focus. Some assignments felt overwhelming, not because of their difficulty but due to my tendency to procrastinate or become distracted. By setting clear goals and breaking tasks into manageable parts, I believe I can overcome this challenge in future projects.

Overall, this class has been both challenging and rewarding. It pushed me to step outside my comfort zone, reflect on my learning habits, and recognize areas where I need growth. I leave this course with a greater appreciation for data science, a stronger foundation in Python, and valuable insights into my personal and academic development.