Prospective Student Application

Thank you for your interest in working with me! This application is to assess whether you're a good fit given my current research interests and approach to problem-solving. You may do these at your own pace. When you are ready to move forward, schedule a 30min meeting with me (either during office hours or a one-off) to discuss your answers. The day before your meeting, send me all Parts of the application.

You must complete this assessment and discuss with me no later than two weeks before the start of the semester that you wish to work. I accept students on a first-come, first-served basis and I do have limits on undergrad and Master's RA positions, so it's possible that there may not be a spot if you wait too long! I only on-board at the beginning of semesters (fall, spring, summer).

Part 0: MATERIALS

Please send me your most up-to-date resume and unofficial transcript.

Part 1: REFLECTION

Pick one of these options:

A: Read this paper and write a 500-700 word scholarly reflection on it.

B. Write a 500-700 word response to the following prompt agreeing or disagreeing: *The TikTok For You Page is good for mental health.* Back up your opinion with citations to resources that support your point. Please use in-text citations and a short bibliography that documents these sources (any citation format and style is fine).

Part 2: CODING ASSESSMENT

Download this dataset from r/depression (it's a zipped comma-separated value (CSV)). *Content warning*: these posts can get dark. If you're uncomfortable with this topic area, let me know and I can get you a dataset of less sensitive content.

In python, I want you to tabulate the following information from this dataset:

- Total number of posts
- Total number of unique authors
- Average post length (measured in word count)
- Date range of the dataset
- Top 20 most important words in the posts (selftext is the column which has the

- Anything else you want to do that shows off your skills. Language analysis, temporal graphs, visualization, machine learning, clustering, whatever you want, goes!

Be prepared to show me this code and talk about your solution. I'll be assessing you on your problem solving strategy, your code quality, and your ability to talk through problems. You may use external libraries/packages, but you'll need to defend your solution. If you use other code or sources to help (e.g. StackOverflow), please note that in your comments. I recommend you spend no more than 3-4 hours on the coding portion.