

# PRACTICUM REFLECTION

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When I began writing my reflection on Practicum this semester, I planned to review my initial reflection from the Spring semester, scan through it, and make the necessary updates. However, as I read what I wrote less than a year ago, I realized how much had changed. Practicum offered me the chance to understand how the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) operates and to take a stance on monetary policy.

After countless presentations and analyzing a variety of articles, I never could have predicted how much this class would change me. It taught me a great deal about financial literacy and GDP, but it also gave me the opportunity to engage more deeply in my classes and connect with my peers. The experiences I've gained over these past two semesters of Practicum are ones I will carry with me forever. I am especially grateful for the incredible people I met along the way. Working with everyone was extremely fun.



## RESEARCH AND FED CHALLENGE

### RESEARCH

My research primarily focused on Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Over the past two semesters, I analyzed GDP trends and used them to support our Federal Funds Rate (FFR) predictions. GDP serves as a key indicator of an economy's health, reflecting the value of all goods and services produced within a nation's borders. In the second half of Practicum, I used the data we gathered to draw more specific conclusions about the metrics we analyzed. For example, an increasing trend in consumer spending helped structure our research, as the data supported trends in PCE (Personal Consumption Expenditures) and PDFFP (private domestic final purchases).

While analyzing growth rates alone doesn't necessarily reveal much about the economy's health, interpreting the data allowed me to draw conclusions about the broader economic conditions of the year. This analysis served as a strong foundation for our forecasts.

### FED CHALLENGE

During the College Fed Challenge orientation in September, one of the speakers shared tips and tricks for creating our presentation. The advice that resonated with me the most—and which I would emphasize for future competitors—was to not only take advantage of different perspectives but also integrate them into the presentation whenever possible. A well-structured argument that can be clearly walked through reflects the depth of our Tuesday meeting discussions and showcases the effort our group put into every second of the presentation.

Although our presentation wasn't selected, I am extremely proud of our work. Every lesson we learned was a valuable experience, and I hope many more students get the same opportunity my group did—to feel like we were part of something bigger.