# Data Art Process Journal

1. I actually started by typing up my observation notes from my experiment. I felt like my original notes were a bit short, so I went back and added more details about what I could remember from the different days.

2. I started looking for data patterns just by counting things. The first thing I counted was kind of the circumstances - like, if I did the journal alone or with someone else, and by counting the weather patterns, because I tended to write about that a lot. I also noticed that a lot of my observations included "other stuff" like how I felt about math, and what's going on in the news right now, and what's going on in my family.
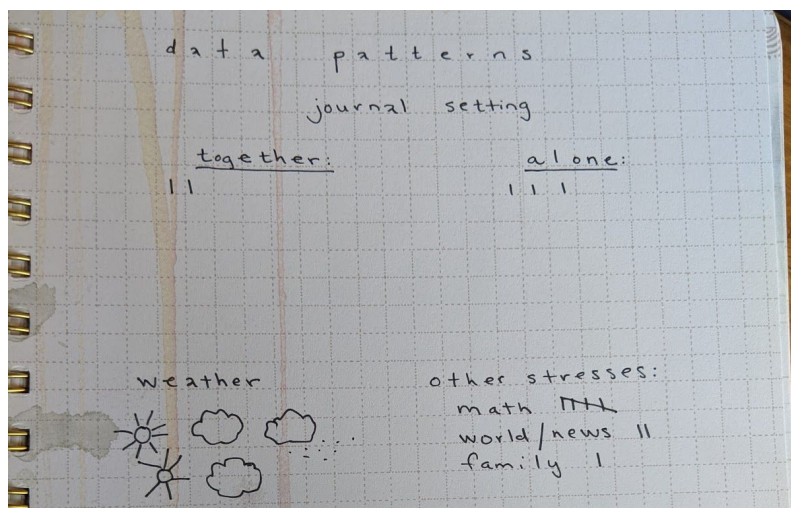

3. After I did that, I started actually looking at what I said I was grateful for. This is where some big patterns came out, because I noticed that I wrote about my family A LOT. Like the health of my family, their support, even when I wrote about bread, it was connected to family.
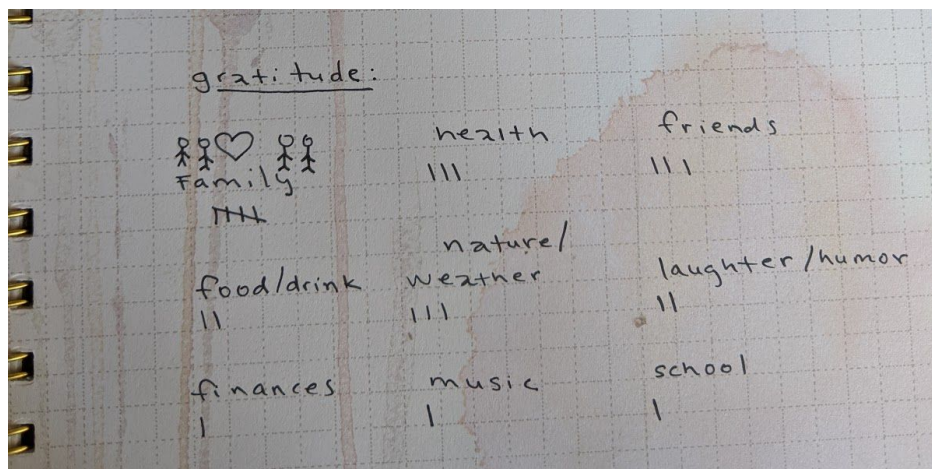
4. I started think about the "story" of my data. I think it kind of has to do with material vs non-material happiness. I re-did my data patterns using those two categories.

5. When I re-did the patterns, I noticed that there was A LOT more non-material things than material things. I even started to wonder if my gratitude of music / money / food & drink was about the material of it, or if it was more about how it made me feel, so I did little dots to show the connections.
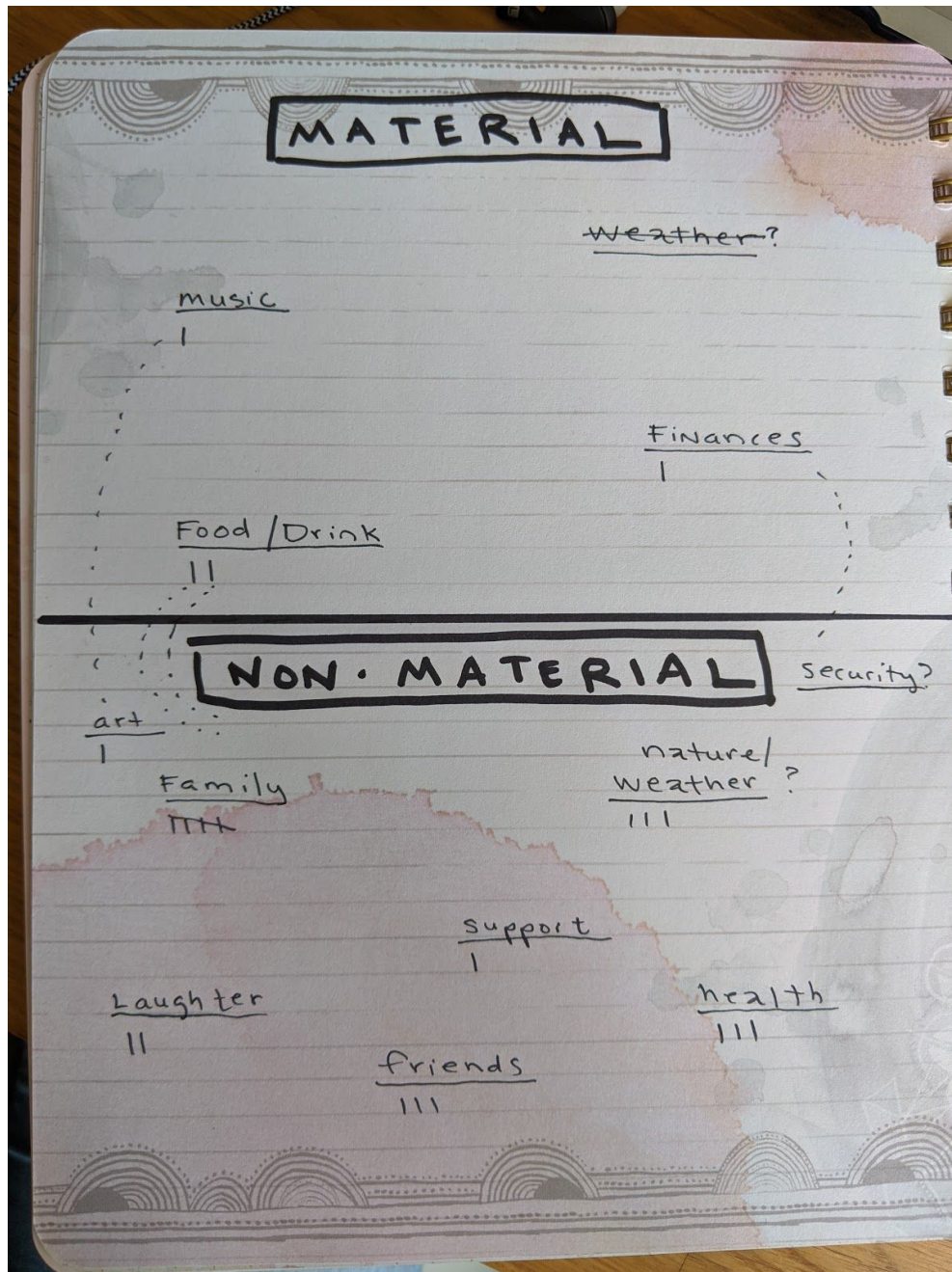
6. I liked the idea of material/non-material, but I also wondered how to visualize the data about circumstances, since this wasn't on the new chart. That made me think about maybe the story is about the power of gratitude in the midst of different circumstances. I decided it was time to add color. I also started sketching with the data and thinking about the shapes/lines that felt matched the things I wanted to represent.
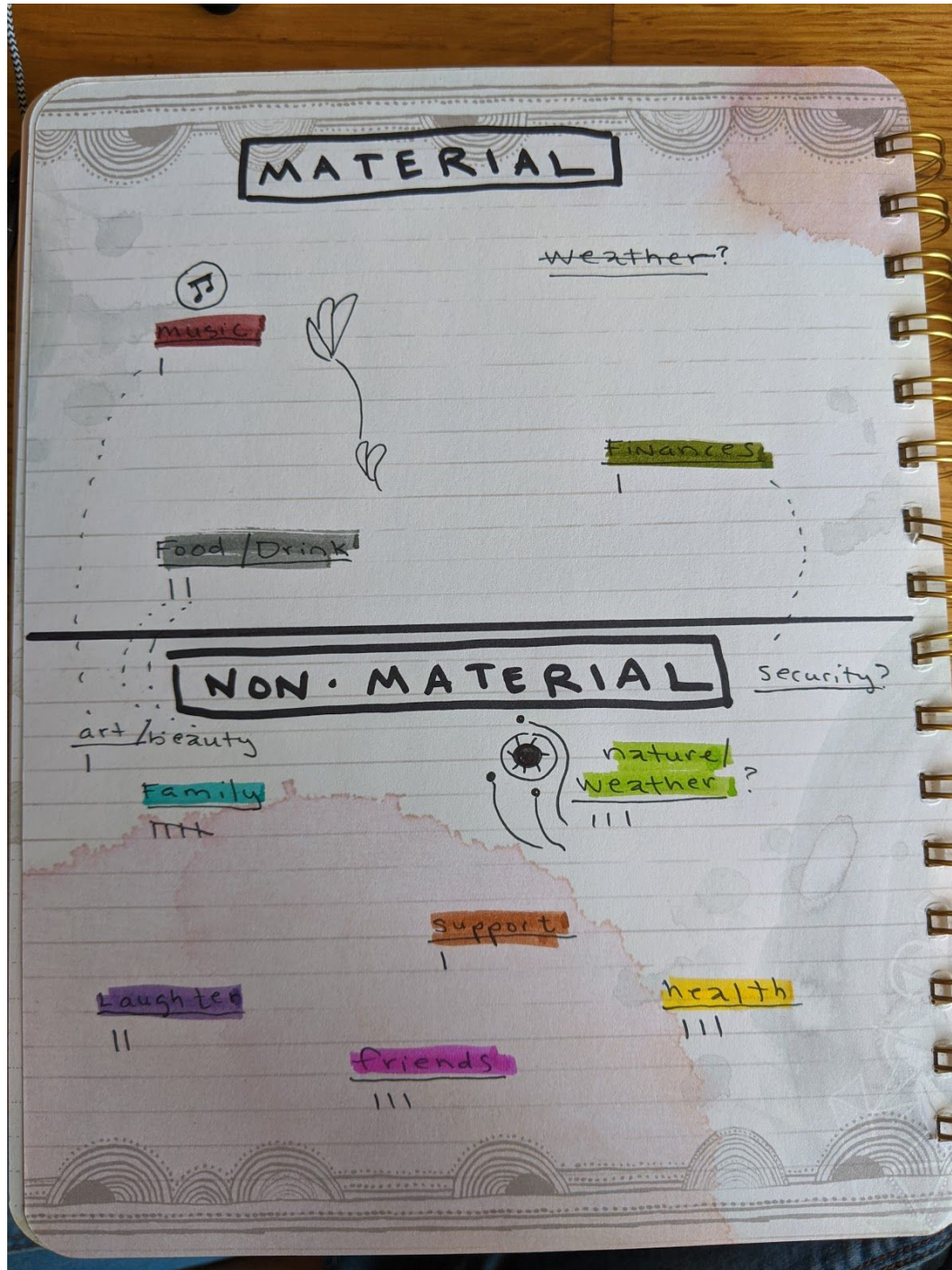
7. I created my 5x7 postcard using a sheet of copy paper that I folded in half. I used a ruler to measure .75" from both sides.
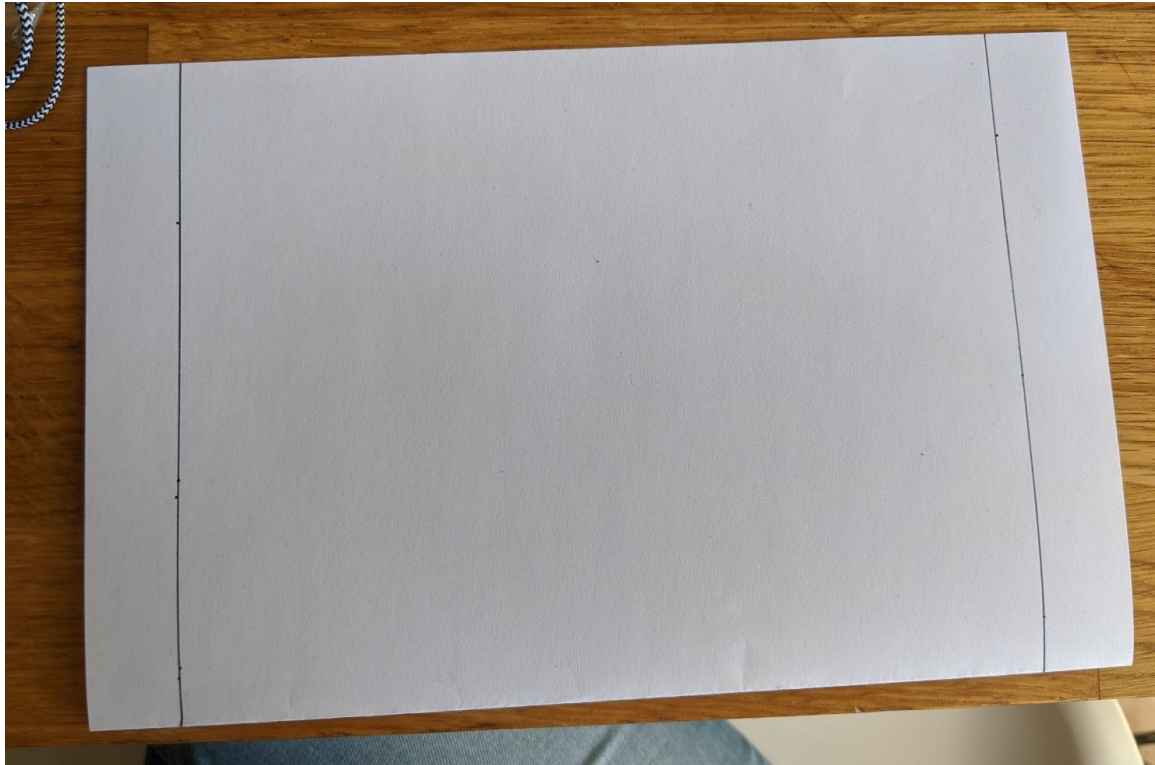

8. I started a draft of my art. I used colors for the circumstances around the border of the postcard, and then used petals to signify the different things I was grateful for.
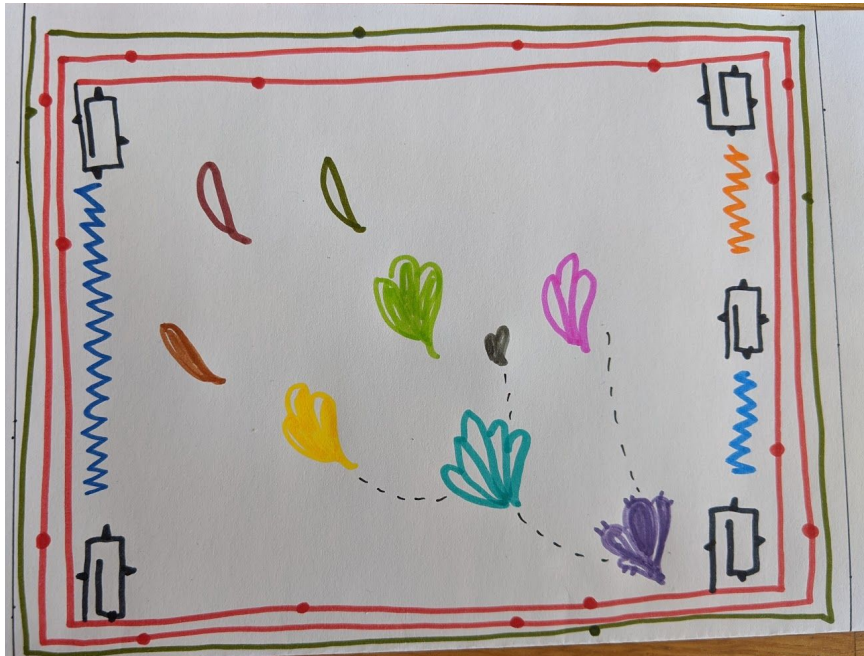
8. This is the reflection I sent to my group: What I feel good about is that I have a lot of data, and I think I have a good idea for a story. A tip I have for others is to go back to add more details to their data if they don't feel like they have enough data to count or are having trouble finding patterns/categories. A challenge I am having is with the art itself. I don't like the artwork itself. Like, it's not beautiful to me. My question is do you feel like you get a sense of the story by reading it? Also, what tips do you have to do the art to make it more appealing?

9. The feedback I got from my group was helpful. They suggested that I move the circumstances to just the bottom of the art because it was kind of boxing in the gratitude things. They also suggested I make the gratitude things take up more space in the art so it tells more the power of gratitude. Another idea I got from the teacher was to go back to the Dear Data project to get some inspiration for how to add more detail in the art so that I can include more than just the count of things. I really liked the one that Giorgia did for Week 25 of friends. So I'm going to try to do those things in my final art, and also make the legend! Oops.

10. I did another draft of my art where I tried to experiment with how to add more details to the data elements. When I was happy with my idea, I started creating a list of all the different dimensions I wanted to include. In the new design, I am using flower stems and the centers represent the thing I felt grateful for, and the petals represent how those things made me feel when I wrote or thought about them. I also added some other details about the characteristics of the things, and made them different sizes to indicate how often I thought about them.
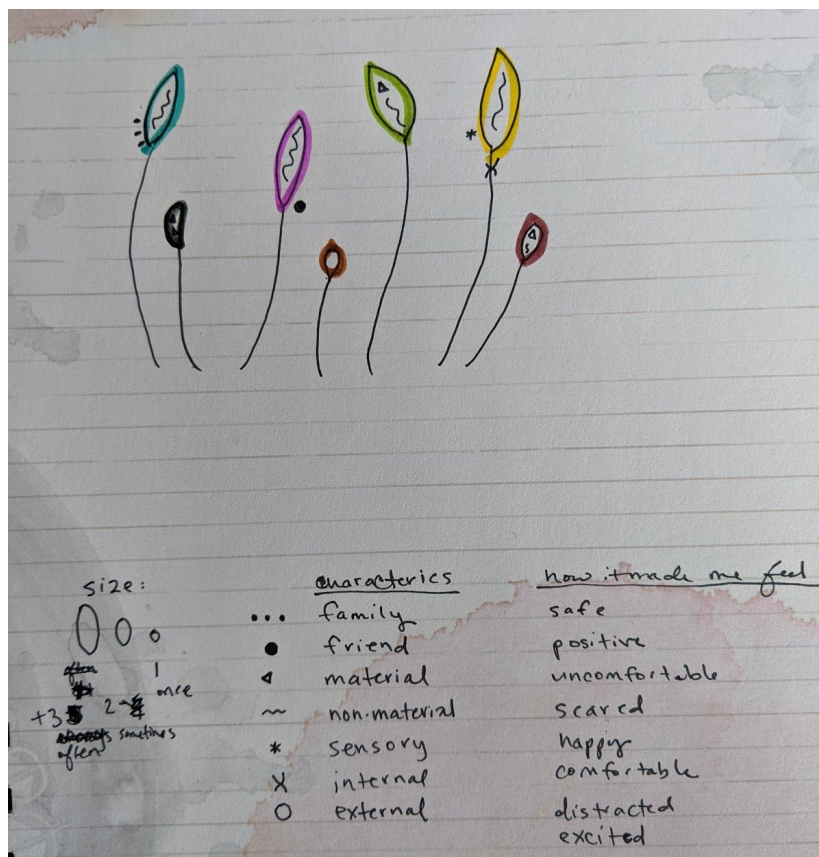
11. In the final draft of my art, I used a pencil to sketch out my design before I added the marker. I basically kept everything similar to the new design, but also added the jagged lines at the bottom to show the stressful circumstances I was in. I used thin colored pens to color in the petals. Then I made my legend. I like this draft a lot more because I think it tells the story better. I enjoyed thinking about what color to represent different things with, and I also thought it was comforting to think about how the different things and people make me feel. I noticed that almost all of them make me feel happy! So I guess expressing gratitude is a good way to feel happy, scientifically.

A WEEK OF GRATITUDE

The data: I went out into nature for 15 minutes every day & journaled about what I am grateful for.

STRESSFUL CIRCUMSTANCES
- MATH
- FINANCES
- WORLD/NEWS
- WEATHER

HOW TO READ IT:

circles: things I felt grateful for
jagged lines: things I felt stressed about
petals: how things made me feel

HOW OFTEN:
(3+) (2) (1)

TYPE OF THING:
~ non-material
△ material
... family
● friend
* sensory
✗ internal
O external

FEELING:
||| SAFE
||| POSITIVE
||| HAPPY
||| COMFORTABLE
||| DISTRACTED
||| EXCITED
||| supported
∧∧∧ stressed

PERSON/THING I FELT GRATEFUL FOR:
- FAMILY
- FRIENDS
- FINANCES
- MUSIC
- FOOD/NUM NUMS
- LAUGHTER
- HEALTH
- WEATHER
- SUPPORT