Name: Tushaar Kamat Date: 8/27/16

5.09C A day in the Life

What stereotypes does this video address?

The video mentions how many think of programmers as basement-dwelling geeks that have no life. In reality, this is more often than not untrue, as programming jobs require good teamwork and communication skills, along with leadership experience.

How does a day in the life of these young people compare to the future you imagine for yourself by the time you are 24 years old?

Although it is too early to tell, I will probably also have a job at this time. I was considering engineering before, but I am slowly starting to lean towards programming, and it seems like a very lucrative choice.

How does technology enable the people depicted to pursue careers and enjoy lifestyles in ways that are fulfilling?

Programming jobs often have more flexible hours, so the people in the video had a lot of time to pursue their other interests. In addition, programming gives us a direct connection to the technology we use in everyday life, and people can further appreciate technology such as the cameras and iPods that many take for granted.

Without a background in computer science how might their jobs or lifestyles be different?

Without a background in computer science, these people might not have such a flexible and relatively luxurious life. Living costs in San Francisco and Seattle tend to be quite high, so without a well-paying computer job, they would probably end up staying in a small, cheap apartment with a boring desk job.

Describe the use of computer-based technology during a typical day in your life. How do these technologies improve or complicate your life?

I use computer technology constantly, whether through listening to music, calling through my phone, or reading books on my kindle. The ultimate benefit of these technologies is convenience; I can carry around a lightweight kindle with hundreds of eBooks on it across the world, while that isn’t possible with normal books.

If you had to give up the use of one computer-based technology for a week, which one would it be, and how would you cope without it?

If I had to give up one computer-based technology for a week, it would probably be my kindle. While it is extremely convenient, I could probably do with normal books for one week, unless I was going on a long journey.

Ask someone in an older generation (a parent/guardian or other relative, neighbor, teacher, etc.) to describe what effect the absence of this technology had on their lives back in the day. Discuss generational attitudes about the benefits of technology.

One of my teachers was telling me how computer programming use to work in the 1960’s and 70’s: people had these slips of paper with holes in them, and they would have to be fed one at a time into the computer in order to generate a command. The stack of cards would often get knocked over, resulting in disaster for the programmer, and the whole process was very finicky. I am sure people from that era marvel at the fancy compilers and languages we have today, while we just take it for granted. Despite what my parents say about my “technology addiction”, I feel that it is a crucial part of life as we know it, and we might as well take advantage of it.

Response One: Joshua Mutugi (8/27/16)

I fully agree with you on your perceptions of computer programmers, they are more "human" than many people think of them as. I am also facing the same dilemma you are with regards to computer and mechanical engineering. It seems to me that the computer engineering field is growing much faster, so I am leaning towards that. I wish you luck in your future coding!

Response Two: Hannah Savoldy (8/27/26)

Your remarks about computers and the human mind are spot on; the human mind needs the processing power of computers in order to create great things, and computers need the ingenuity of the human mind to function (at least until computers learn to program themselves and destroy the human race). I also agree with your claim that the importance of computers will grow as time moves on, there is simply no reason not to use such a powerful tool.