Reflection:

The biggest coding challenge I faced this quarter was fixing the API tests after adding more fields to the assignment class. Prior to this quarter, I had barely done any work with APIs as I did not take any web development classes. Understanding how API layers worked with JSON confused me and I wasn’t sure where to begin in correcting my tests.

When I started debugging, I figured out that I was having problems with JSON Serializer not working. After more debugging, I discovered that the serializer was not correctly formatting data as the test was calling my actual constructor.

After talking with Colton, I figured out that my constructor was not assigning values to all fields thus breaking serialization. After a quick edit to my constructor, everything began working again.

I am most proud of implementing a DTO. I did not have any experience with DTOs prior to this class and I discovered their use organically as I was getting frustrated with the growing number of fields in the assignment class. While writing the Update method in the console ui, I wanted to create an object that would basically copy everything from the assignment class except its fields would be nullable. I described this idea to Colton and he said something to the effect of “like a DTO?”

Apparently I was thinking in the correct direction as others have come up with the same solution. It felt good to know that my thinking was on the right track!

TDD forced me to slow down and ask *what do I want this method to do? What will it look like when it works? Should it be dependent on other methods?* Writing failing tests first helped me to better conceptualize how things should work BEFORE I created them, saving me time in refactoring reckless design choices.

If I had to give myself any advice, I would make sure that I was writing XML documentation from the beginning of the quarter. Going back through and writing documentation all at once felt very tedious, especially when it was the last thing I needed to do for my final turn in.