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CART 253 - Creative Computation I - Fall 2023

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Exercise: Reflection

Reflecting on my journey through this programming course has been quite a ride. As a communication studies student, starting off the Creative Computation course, I was a total beginner in programming.

My initial attempt to get into coding was more of a copy-and-paste job from the internet. I could make things work, but the 'why' of the code remained a mystery to me. But then this course happened. It was as if someone had switched on the lights in a dark room. Coding became more than just copying and pasting; it was about doing it yourself and understanding what each line of code was doing. I began to understand the reasoning behind the symbols and commands. I learned not only how to make things work, but also why they worked that way, through trial and error.

Discovering programming's vast creative potential was a revelation for me. It's like having a digital canvas where lines of code act as brushes to create intricate shapes that dance across the screen. The possibilities seemed limitless, and the pure excitement of putting ideas into code quickly became my favorite aspect of programming.

This excitement, however, was not without its difficulties. I recall the frustration of attempting overly complicated plans only to become lost in uncertainty. I learned the critical lesson of starting small through a variety of exercises and projects. Small victories and gradually increasing complexity led to a better understanding of programming. Patience became my trusted companion, guiding me through complexities and discovering the beauty in simplicity.

Among the projects I worked on, the mini game from Project 1 stands out as my pride and joy. During gameplay, the concept of users picking up virtual garbage elements and tossing them into the bin felt surprisingly real. It was an important reminder that coding is about more than abstract

concepts; it's about creating experiences that resonate with users. It was extremely satisfying to see my code translated into a tangible, interactive game which is also educational.

Looking ahead, my programming practice's future holds exciting possibilities. My expectations were exceeded by the progress made in just one semester. The prospect of delving into Creative Computation 2 in the coming semester is both exciting and intimidating. My newfound abilities have sparked an interest in creating interactive and educational games, particularly for young children. My enthusiasm is fueled by the prospect of my projects having an impact on their learning journeys. I am excited to continue programming, exploring new creative realms and contributing to the world of interactive education. The journey has only just begun, and the possibilities seem as endless as lines of code on a screen.