

Personal Reflections - F4

1. How has your knowledge of the tech field changed since class began?

Over the course of the last 8 weeks the tech field has seemed more approachable. I've learned that there is so much that can be learned in webdev that no one is really going to learn it all, it's a continuous journey and process. I've realized more clearly that all the coders out there are Googling and searching at times just as much as I am and that we're all growing to become that web developer we want to be. The field has become more exciting to enter as I learn and understand more of what can be done in webdev.

2. What was the most difficult part of Foundations for you? And how did you overcome that?

The most difficult part has been the retention of material covered. The pace of the course is accelerated so I was expecting that to happen. I've tried to overcome the issue of forgetting what method for example to use while in the middle of coding by learning how and where to Google, it just takes time. Notes could help but I retain less when taking them down and trying to listen to a lecture. I think I will naturally overcome this issue with more experience. Taking notes after I Google something may help. This is a work in progress.

3. Did you learn anything about the way you learn? What was it?

I touched on this a little in the previous question, but yes I feel I've come to understand my learning style more during foundations. Focusing on one thing at a time helps me soak in more. Being zoned into the lecture and not multitasking helps too. Hands-down I learn best with experience, coding out things and with repetition, repetition, repetition. Working through bugs and troubleshooting helps things stick as well as I take time trying to understand the concept that's broken.

4. How will you apply what you know about your learning style during Specializations?

I think where possible I want to practice on code wars on a regular basis (if that will even be possible with our timeframe and need to work on projects). I think possibly when I google a method to understand how it works I will consider writing down in my notes my own description of what it's used for to help retain it in my memory for next time I will need it. I'm going to keep thinking about this cuz there's probably more but that's what comes to mind that I can do.

5. What was your experience with pair programming like?

I had a good experience. I think I learned more about my learning and working style even from being paired up with someone for a lab. Being paired with various people showed me that all of us learn and work differently. I programmed best when we could review the lab together and then work on sections separately (while asking each other questions as they came up) and then check in at the end of each section. The times when we were reading each step and trying to talk it out step by step it seemed that one of us would understand it and the other would still be needing to think it out. Working separately but in each other's presence was most helpful for me and how I work. This method to me is better than working solely alone too.

6. What parts of Foundations did you enjoy the most? (This could be anything from a specific lab or lecture to the general setup of class or a funny moment.)

I enjoyed Foundations quite a bit. It was a slower pace than the pace I heard from friends and family that had gone to Devmountain in years past. It feels like the restructuring of the course was a good move. I loved having an instructor and mentor that were both available to just our cohort. I also absolutely loved the super small group of us (we were lucky to have only 4 of us students in the cohort). Because of the small group there was always time for all of our questions and rarely had to wait long to get help in the queue. Aside from learning the core coding principles and practicing them together over the weeks, I really enjoyed learning more of the industry tools like Rollbar and CircleCI, getting down the ins and outs of Github and deploying applications. While in person could have been awesome, being remote worked quite well. I loved having the Discord platform for communication. Nothing can replace emojis and great gifs to react to each others comments and conversation.