1. Write and/or draw an algorithm (or your best try at one) to perform an activity you wish you could automate. Doing the dishes? Taking an English test? It’s up to you.

**Algorithm: Making Tea**

1. Boil water.
2. Place a tea bag in a cup.
3. Pour hot water into the cup.
4. Let it steep for a few minutes.
5. Remove the tea bag.
6. Add sugar or milk (if desired).
7. Stir and enjoy.
8. Often there are spaces online that make one feel like an outsider, or like an insider. Study an online space that makes you feel like one of these – how it that outsider or insider status being communicated to you, or to others?

- Insider vs. Outsider Online

**Insider Example: A gaming forum**

* Algorithms push relevant content, reinforcing engagement.
* Shared language & knowledge make it feel exclusive.
* Community validation (likes, upvotes) encourages participation.

**Outsider Example: A tech industry forum**

* Algorithms filter out unfamiliar topics, keeping newcomers disconnected.
* Complex jargon makes understanding difficult.
* Gatekeeping behaviors discourage beginners from joining discussions.

Algorithms shape online experiences, deciding who sees what, influencing belonging or exclusion.

1. Consider the history of how you learned whatever you know about computing. This could mean how you came to understand key terms, searching online simple programs, coding, etc. Then, reinvent that history if you’d learned all you wish you knew about computing at the times and in the ways you feel you should have learned them.

**My History of Learning Computing**

I started using computers when I was in 7th or 8th grade, but mostly for gaming. At that time, I didn’t fully understand how powerful computers could be beyond entertainment. It wasn’t until after 10th grade that I truly realized how useful computers are for learning, working, and solving problems. Looking back, I wish I had explored their potential earlier, rather than seeing them as just gaming machines.

**Reinventing My Learning Journey**

If I could redo my computing experience, I would:

1. Start learning earlier - Instead of only playing games, I’d explore different tools, educational websites, and software.
2. Balance fun and learning - I’d still enjoy gaming, but I’d also try coding, editing, and research tools from the start.
3. Seek structured guidance - Finding a mentor or course to teach key computing concepts would have made learning easier.
4. Understand tech beyond personal use - Earlier exposure to how computers shape industries, careers, and daily life would have changed my perspective sooner.

**Final Thought:**  
I learned computing later than I would have liked, but now I can use that knowledge to build new skills and explore its full potential moving forward!