1. Can I rewrite the code from the comments I left?

I have been taught many different definitions of “Commenting code” through all the Computer Science classes I have taken. One of my online classes insisted on commenting every single line. One professor insisted that I comment code so he/she could read it; another professor told me to only comment when I--myself needed to leave a comment.

I was working on a personal project and a friend asked why I don’t release some of my personal project on Github. I am bringing this up now because we must ask ourselves: “what are our intentions when leaving a comment”. If I am going for secrecy, should I still leave comments, even if I obfuscate my code? Am I even going to release this code? Is this just a project I want to use to simplify my daily life? The answer to all those questions can be answered with “me”… I mean, the answer always included “Me”, “Myself”, or “i”.

Long story short I believe that the definition to *commenting code* is: Annotations for myself.

This will change later down the road, and it obviously must change constantly to fulfill either a syllabus, a boss’s needs, potential employer, or maybe just my own peace of mind knowing that someone will understand what code means.

So, to formally answer the question. No, I cannot rewrite the code from the comments I’ve made. Most of my comments don’t even explain what kind of control flow I was using, but it all makes sense in the context. I am kind of selfish and don’t see a point in writing full documentation for someone else to understand my work. If I am releasing the work on github or even for sale-- that is different, but I think most comments should be contextual.

1. What advice would you give yourself to improve the code?

I would say, and to branch off what I said in the last paragraph, I need to be less selfish. I would say don’t just write for myself. I think it will be a difficult task none the less, as when you are trying to use all your brain power you really don’t want to either a.) stop coding to comment or b.) go back and comment paragraphs of code. For me it ruins my train of thought and coding momentum. To be honest, I have felt the blade of the “no commenting mindset” sword. I’ve gone back on old JS from 3 years ago and not understand anything. So, I should probably comment more.