

To: CS 4500 Professors  
From: Joseph Mullally and Mark Preschern  
Subject: Experiences with our Exploratory Programming Tasks in Java  
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We found our experience with our exploratory programming tasks to be mixed. We were surprised by how much difficulty we had with some Java libraries we found. Starting with Assignment B, we didn't have much trouble. We missed a corner case, but we were able to figure out our issues after the fact. The other part of this assignment that was made trivial with the help of java was creating a shell script that ran our program. It was simple to create a jar file and run it as a command.

Assignment C gave us more trouble because we were unfamiliar with using input streams with java. We had multiple issues working with our parsing library as well and finding its limitations and capabilities was incredibly time consuming. We hit major roadblocks while designing our parser which we inherited with the Gson library. We struggled with learning our Gson library, but after submission we revisited it to make sure it was working. We also had some issues with delivery on this assignment.

Assignment D was a breath of fresh air as working in any of Java's GUI libraries have fantastic documentation and online resources. We were able to easily create the program with only minor technical roadblocks. Assignment E also gave us trouble as we were unfamiliar with keeping track of Processes in Java. We found that our process would continue to run in the background after we ended the transmission and it was incredibly difficult to debug.