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CMSC 204 Assignment 2 Lessons Learned

During this assignment I learned how to create an array using a generic data type. I struggled with the ClassCastException and I learned that you avoid this in the toArray() method by creating an array of type object, setting that array equal to the data structure I created’s toArray() method, and then creating another array of the type of data I wanted it to be, and initializing that to the same size as the data structure’s toArray() method, and then shallow copying while casting each element to be the data type I needed.

In the future I would like to see if there is a way to write my stack and queue so that I don’t need to cast from type Object to the data type I need. I want to see if I can accomplish all of the necessary infrastructure in the data structure I’ve created so that you can just do something like this and have all of the methods work: MyStack<DonationPackage> = new MyStack<DonationPackage>();.

Also, I learned not to underestimate a project. I coded almost all of the project in about an hour and assumed I was close to done. However, when I went to try to run my tests I ran into bugs that took 3+ hours to debug and I nearly missed the deadline. In the future I’ll be finishing assignments much earlier, to ensure I don’t have any crunch time towards the deadline.