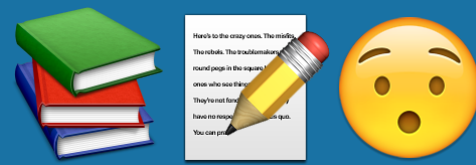


# Balancing Hackathons and Schoolwork



# Has this ever happened to YOU?

You go to CMU or Pitt.

You have a lot of homework.

You want to go to a hackathon.

# Phase I: Before The Hackathon



# Missing Lecture

Talk to your professors a week ahead of time

**In person**, after class

"What will I be missing?"

# Missing Recitation

Email your TAs

# Missing Recitation

Missing 15-122 recitation tomorrow



**Avi Romanoff** <aromanof@andrew.cmu.edu>

9/3/15



to Christine

Hi,

I'm Avi Romanoff, and I believe I'm in your 15-122 recitation (G). I will be unable to attend because I'll be mentoring at the [PennApps](#) hackathon held in Philadelphia this weekend.

Thanks,  
Avi



**Christine Lee** <chrisyxlee@cmu.edu>

9/4/15



to me

No problem!

I can keep a copy of the worksheets for you if you want.

...



**Christine Lee** <chrisyxlee@cmu.edu>

9/4/15



to me

woot :) Have fun!

On Fri, Sep 4, 2015 at 12:04 AM, Avi Romanoff <aromanof@andrew.cmu.edu> wrote:  
That would be hugely, appreciated :) thanks!

...

# Missing a Quiz

Email your Professor

- Explain what a hackathon is
- Explain why it is important for you to attend
- Ask what you can do to make this up

# Missing a Quiz

33-106 Physics Quiz - Won't Be Here



Inbox x



**Caroline Hermans** <chermans@andrew.cmu.edu>

10/29/14 ☆



to Hy ▾

Professor Trac,

I will be leaving for YHack (a hackathon at Yale) this Friday morning at 5:45 AM. I had been planning on attending this event for a long time. This means I won't be able to attend 33-106 class on Friday (or any classes), and will unfortunately have to miss the quiz that day. Is there any way I could make up the quiz this upcoming week, or take it a day early?

Thank you,

Caroline Hermans



**Hy Trac** <hytrac@cmu.edu>

10/29/14 ★



to me ▾

Hi Caroline,

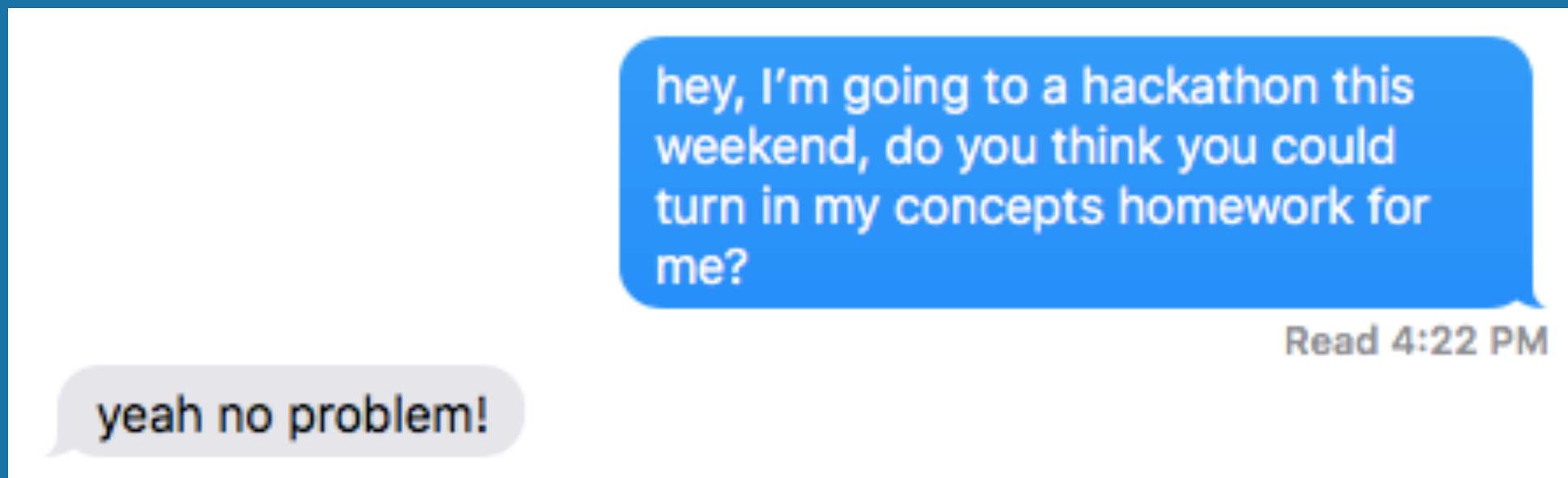
Sure, you can take the quiz on Monday at 9 am. Come find me in Wean 8307. Also, please send me some documentation of your trip for my records. Have fun at YHack!

...



# Turning in Homework

Ask a friend!



# The Lesson Here:

Talk to everyone (professors, TAs, friend),  
and do it early

Be respectful

They'll probably say yes!

# But what if they say no?

Email or Facebook  
message Avi  
([avi@romanoff.me](mailto:avi@romanoff.me))



# What if they say no?

## Attending PennApps on Friday



**Avi Romanoff** <aromanof@andrew.cmu.edu>

9/2/15 ☆



to stanner, students

Dear Professor Tanner,

I'm writing on behalf of student 1 and student 2. I understand they are in your inter section this semester, and will be missing class this Friday as they are competing in PennApps. I wanted to share some additional information about the competition.

[PennApps](#) is the longest-running and largest international student hackathon, held biannually at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. In short, the event is a massive collaborative competition wherein 2,000 college-age students across the US and other countries form small teams and build projects ranging from websites to robots. Over 120 Carnegie Mellon students across all grade levels (myself included) will be attending PennApps this Friday through Sunday. I am coordinating travel between our campus and Penn's, and additionally I will be mentoring other teams at the event, after many years of competing myself.

I hope this helps.

Best,  
Avi Romanoff



**Susan Tanner** <stanner@andrew.cmu.edu>

9/2/15 ☆



to me, students

Dear Avi,

Thank you for your note of explanation. Good luck this weekend– do CMU proud!

Best,  
Susan

# Phase II: During The Hackathon



I'm going to take a wild guess...

You have a lot of homework, a lot of the time.

Missing a weekend might throw you off.





# The Solution:

Make a plan! 😊

Bring your homework with you (or finish it early)



(Real photo of you doing real homework at a hackathon)

But when do I do  
my homework????





# How to do Homework During a Hackathon

1. Budget enough time
2. Talk to your team members beforehand

“Hey guys, heads up, I’m going to need about an hour to finish this assignment later tonight”

# What NOT to Do:

Leave it for the bus ride home.



(Real photo of you on the bus back from a hackathon)

# Phase III: After The Hackathon





# SLEEP FOR A VERY LONG TIME

Yes — BEFORE you try and do a ton of homework!



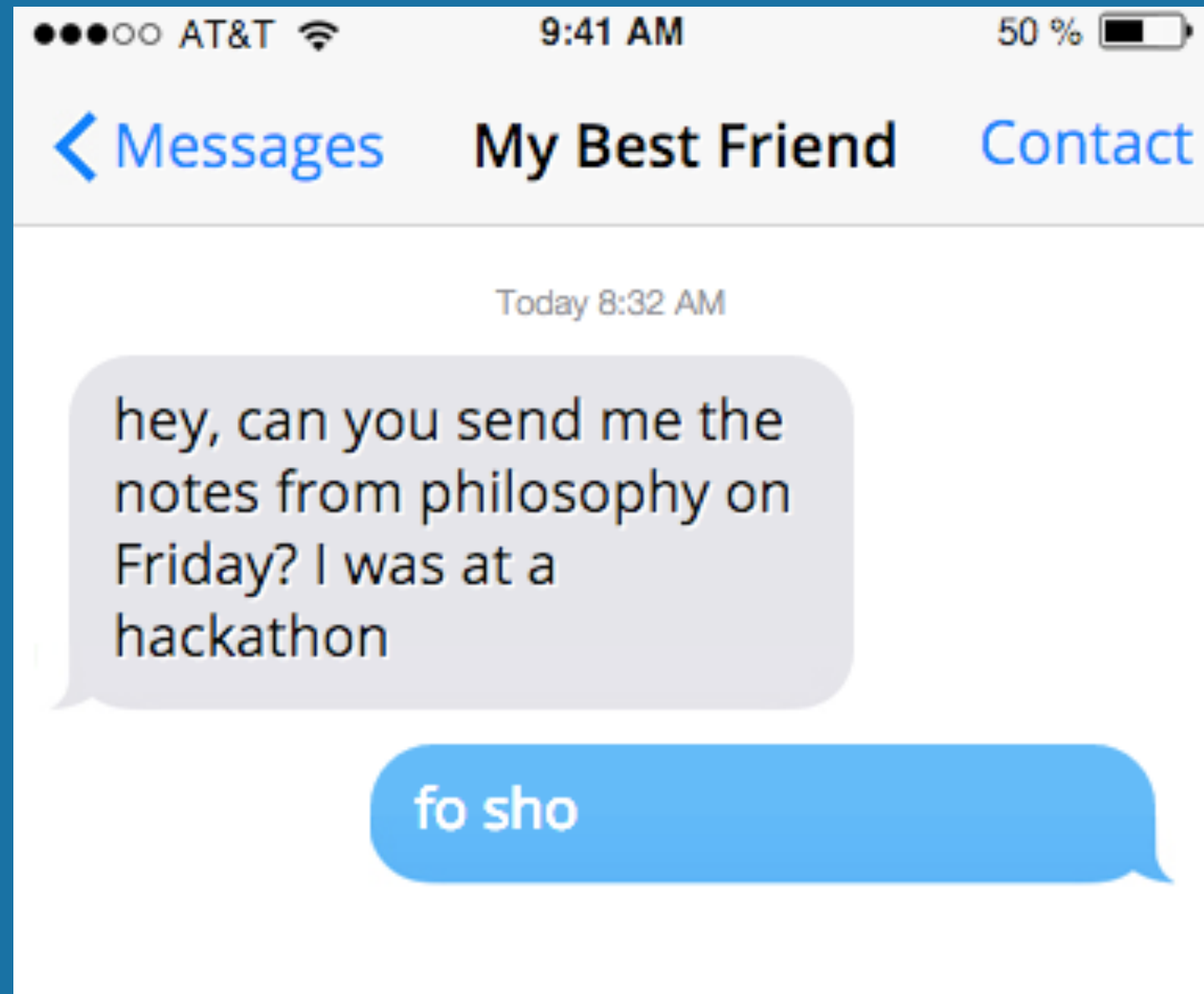
(Real photo of you when you get back to your bed)

# Still, try not to miss class!

Story time:

- TreeHacks last year
- My flight got in at 8AM
- ... on Monday morning





# Catch up on what you missed






(Real screenshot of real fake conversation)


# Worst-case scenario...

((yes this really happened to me))

**So Sorry, Missed Lab**  Inbox x   

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 **Caroline Hermans** <[chermans@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:chermans@andrew.cmu.edu)> 11/4/14 ☆  

to Robert 

Dear Professor Heard,

First, I want to apologize. I can't believe myself, I completely forgot that I had lab today. While I realize this isn't a good reason to miss lab, I was at a **hackathon** this weekend and I've been mentally skipping important things like this since I got back yesterday.




I just realized my mistake and I'd like to do anything at all I can to make it up. Could I come to Thursday lab and work with a different group? By missing the lab I would be missing a crucial part of the course, and I'd be really grateful if I could make that up, not to mention that attendance is 50% of the lab grade.


I also understand that because I wasn't sick and there was no emergency besides me being really dumb that there's no guarantee of me being able to make up this big mistake.

Thank you so much and I really apologize,

Caroline Hermans  
Lab Group A

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 **Robert A Heard** <[rheard@cmu.edu](mailto:rheard@cmu.edu)> 11/4/14 ☆  

to me 

Come thursday

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**From:** Caroline Hermans <[chermans@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:chermans@andrew.cmu.edu)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2014 9:23 PM  
**To:** Robert A Heard <[rheard@cmu.edu](mailto:rheard@cmu.edu)>  
**Subject:** So Sorry, Missed Lab

...



# Summary

**Before:** clear everything you're missing with professors

**During:** make a plan! bring your homework with you, or get it done ahead of time

**After:** sleep and catch up!

Thank you! 🤪🍉

