* Make some progress on your midterm project Document in a new folder called midtermProject
* In that folder create a new file called journal.md. Start with a preliminary description of what you intend for your project, followed by a journal of your progress. Each day add the date and then describe the work you plan to do or did that day. Include your thoughts, decisions, experiments, etc. Discuss what worked and what didn't. At the end of each journal entry, describe whether, and if so, how, the results of today's work has caused you to modify your plan for your midterm project.

Preliminary Description:

Block Breaker is a single user game. It involves a ball being bounced around the screen, in an effort to hit all the blocks, destroying them in order to win the game. The goal is to complete this task before all lives are lost or it is GAME OVER.

* The game is to begin with a welcome screen, which has a Start Button and a Help Button.
  + The Start Button – the user presses it to begin the game.
  + The Help Button – the user presses it to view the game instructions.
* The game has 3 levels in total, increasing in difficulty after each level is passed. The user has 3 tries to finish the level or else it is Game Over, and the game begins again from Level 1.
* After selecting the Start Button, Level 1 is displayed with the blocks for this level. The user presses the mouse to get the ball moving, and tries to hit all the blocks, breaking them. It takes 3 hits to destroy a block. Each time a block is hit, more cracks appear until the third hit where it is destroyed. If the ball misses the slider and hits the bottom of the screen, a life is lost, and the ball and slider’s position is reset.
* This continues until the level is won or all lives are lost, meaning Game Over.
* If the user wins the level, a congratulations screen is displayed, with a continue button for the user to select to move on to the next level.
* Similar as above is Levels 2 and 3. The major difference now, is that there are now obstacles that cannot be broken by the ball, and after each block is hit the balls speed increased. If a life is lost, then the speed is reset.
* If the user wins all the levels, then a final congratulatory screen is displayed, and a Restart Button is displayed that the user can select to restart from Level 1.

February 22, 2001

Goals for Today

* Design 2 additional levels
* Display Game Instructions to User
* Find Pictures for Blocks and Background

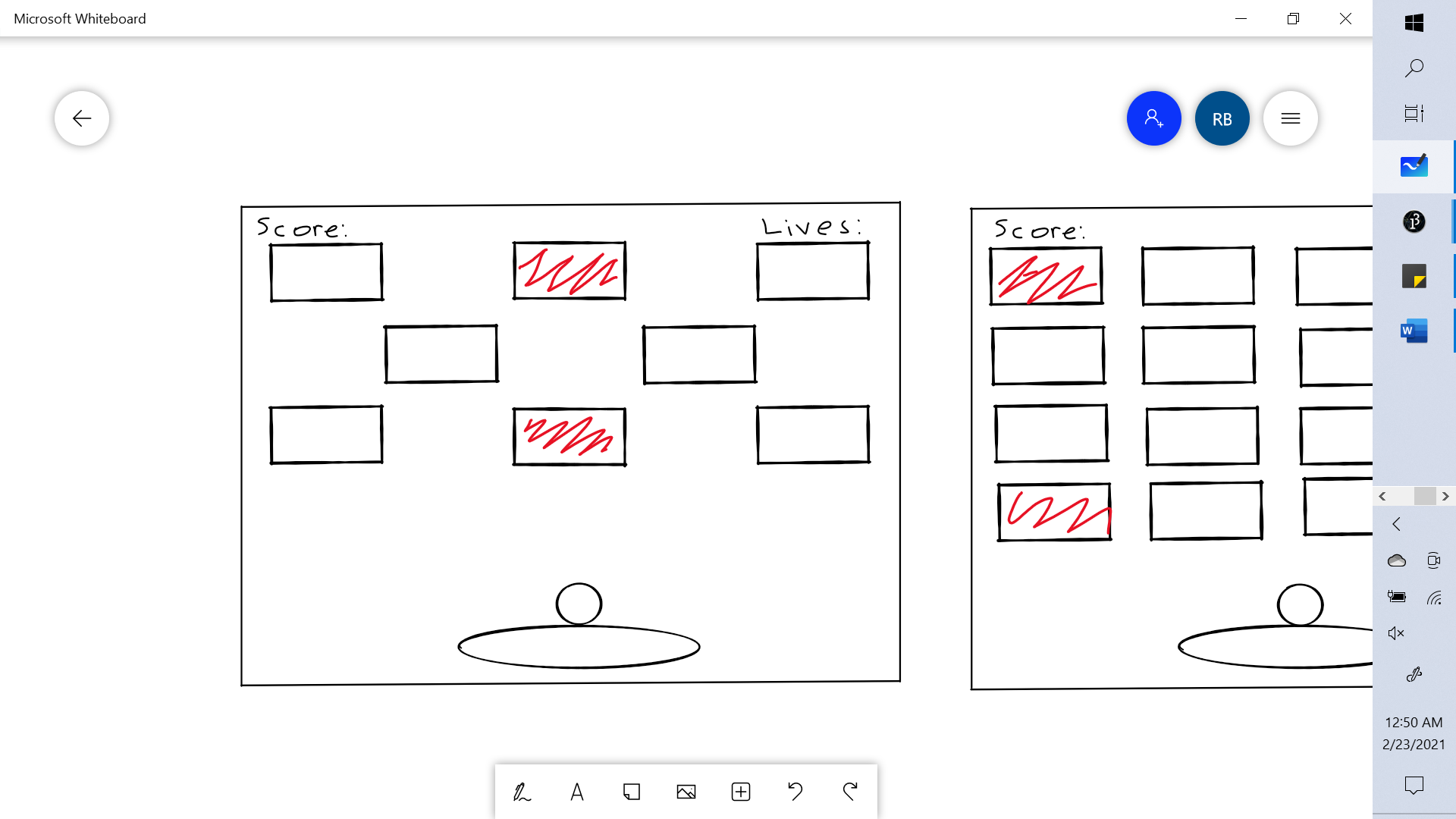
What I accomplished Today:

* Design 2 Additional Levels
* Write the code to incorporate the different blocks for each level.

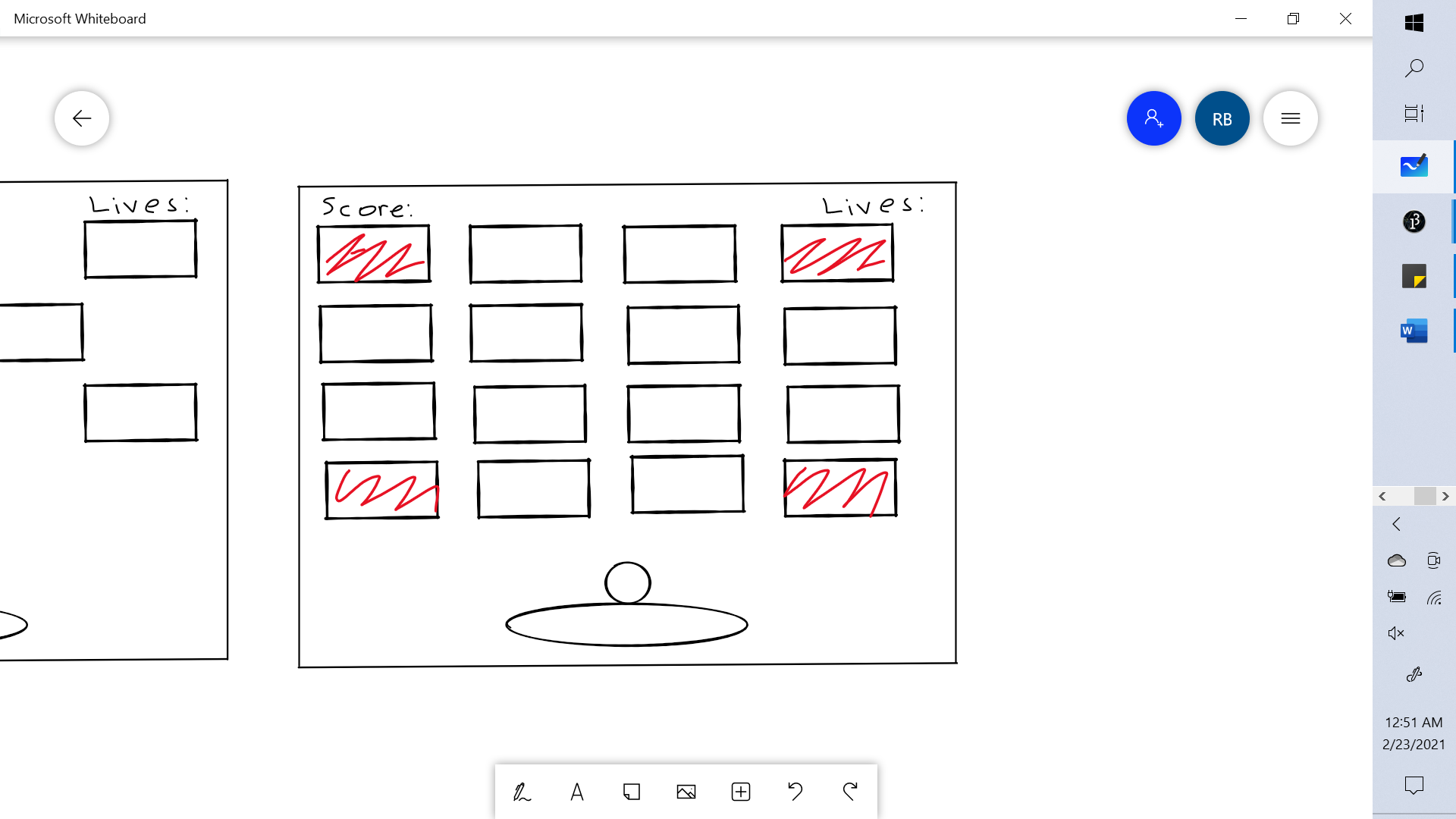
Design for Additional Levels

I am happy to say that I completed the design for Levels 2 and 3 of Block Breaker

Level 2



Level 3



Coding the Blocks for Each Level

For the blocks for each level, I used arrays. Each array had its own variables regarding the starting positions for each block, the number of rows, the vertical gaps as well as the horizontal gaps between each block.

Then using a createBlocks Function, which accepted as arguments the empty level array and its corresponding variables, each array of blocks was created.

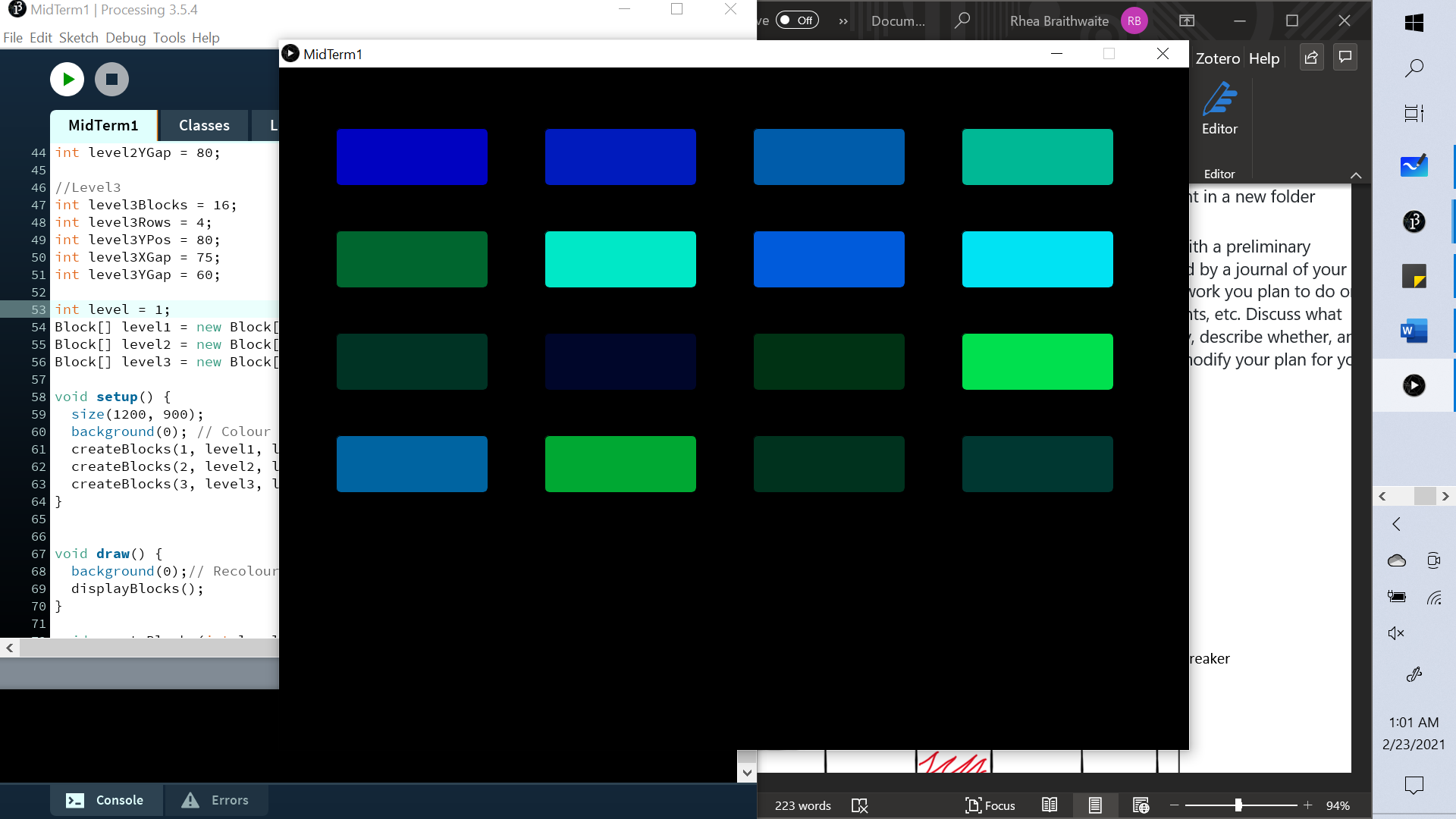
Below you will see red blocks. These have been made to be obstacles; therefore, I needed a way to track them in the array. So, I made the block have an obstacle variable that is True or False. And when creating the blocks, depending on the index for the obstacles, the condition was True or False.

Note

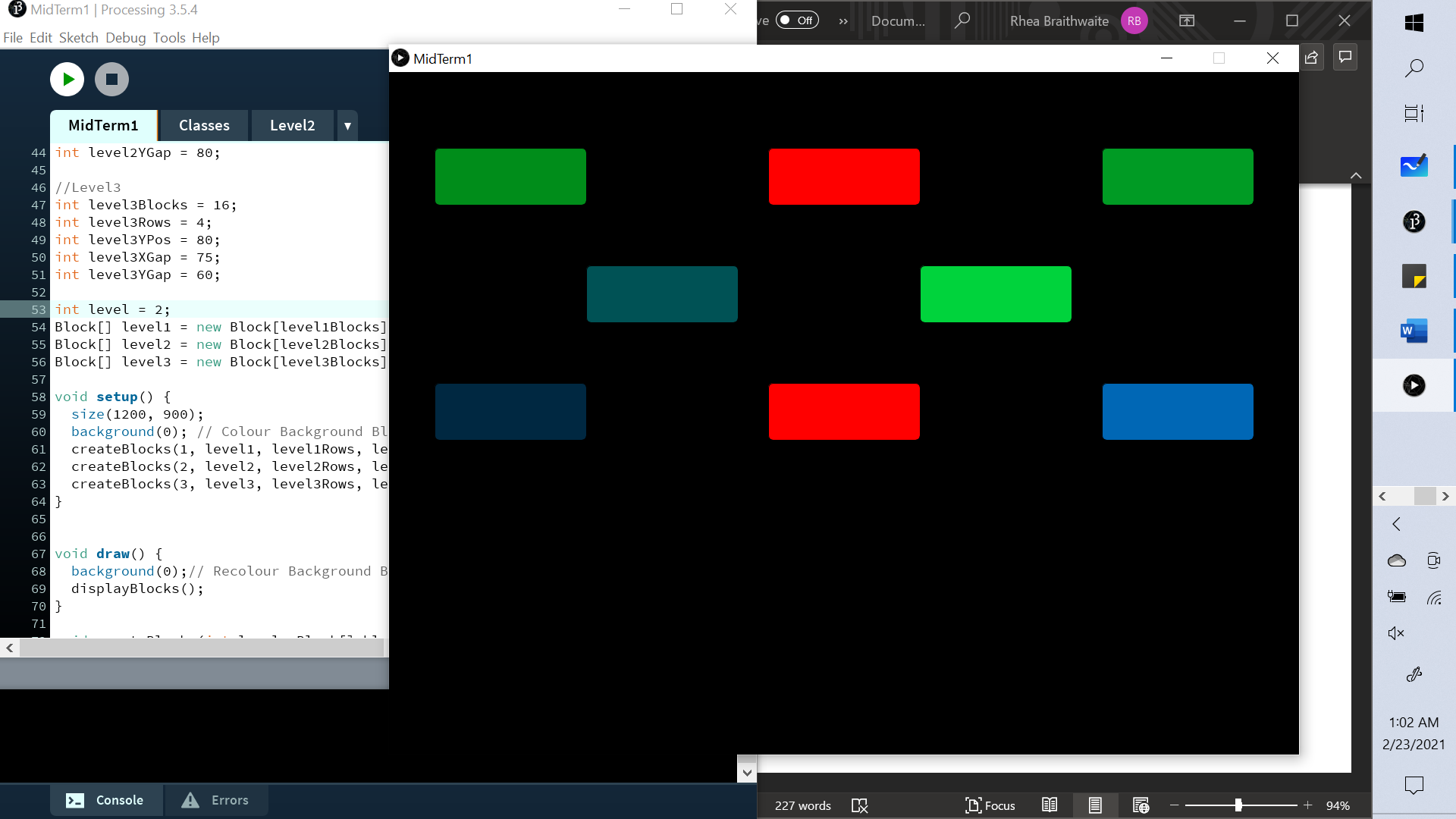
* Because the number of blocks per level and the location of the obstacles were different for each level, I had to pass an integer which represented the specific level for the array of blocks being created.

Code:

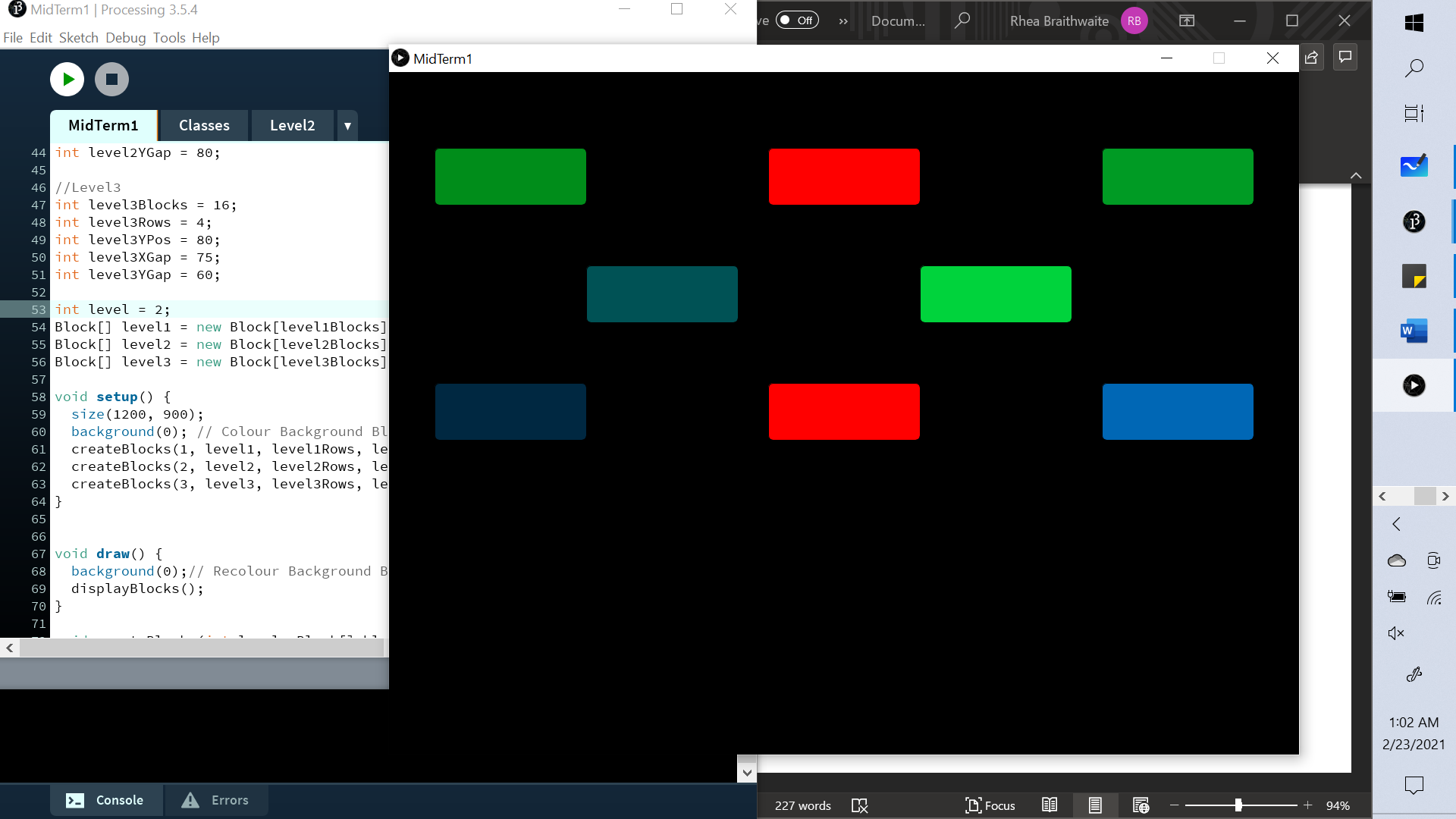
Level 1



Level 2

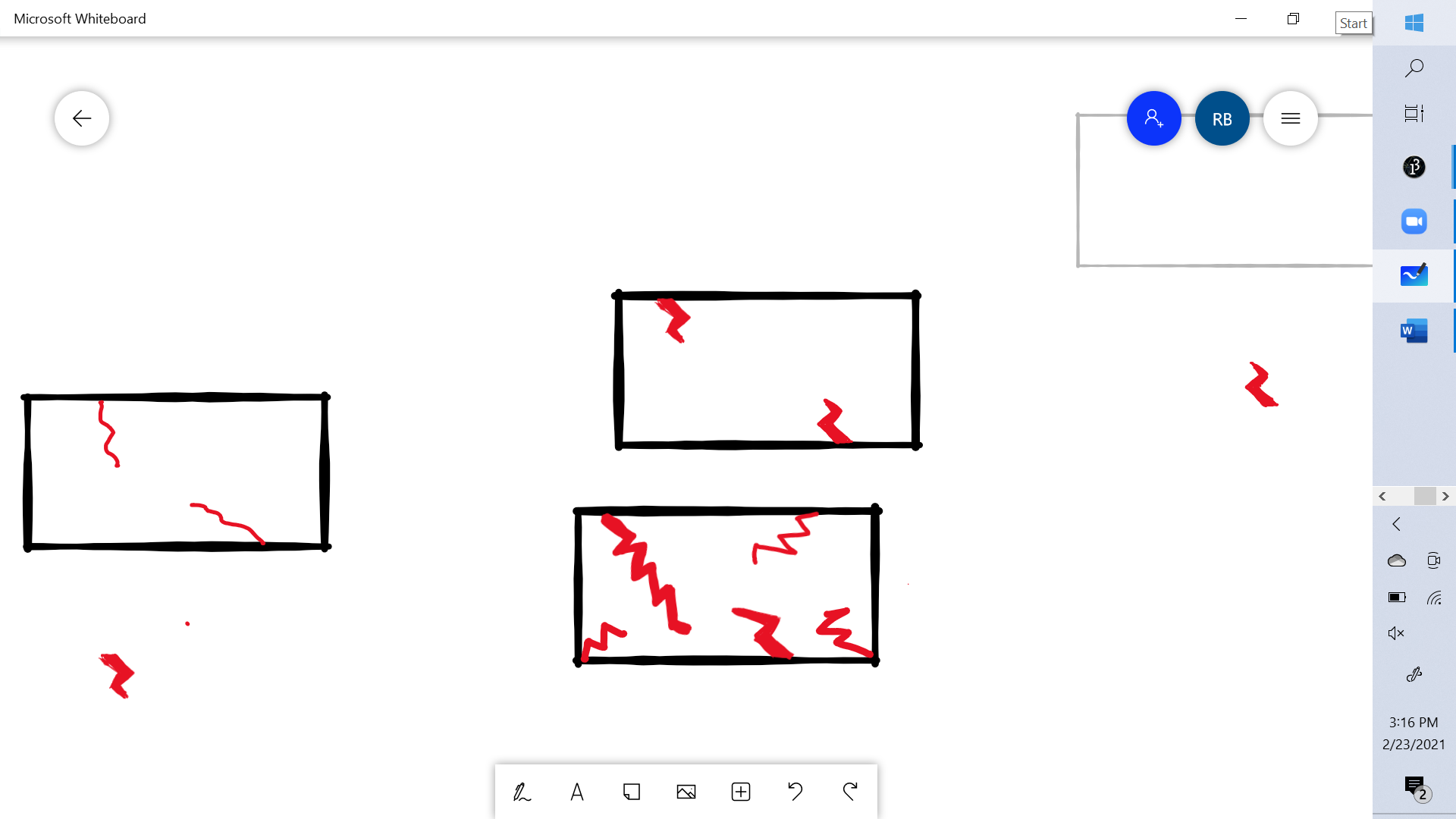
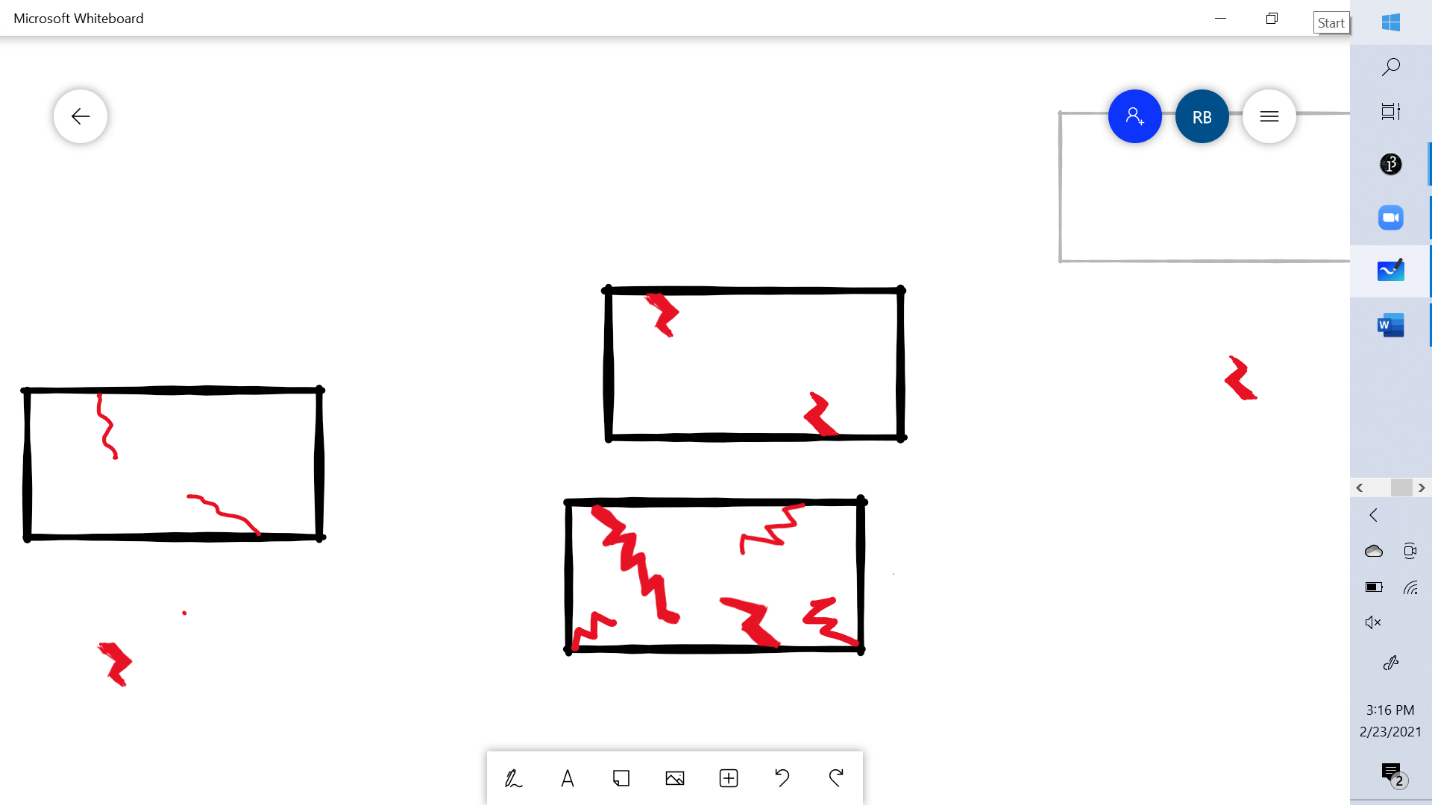


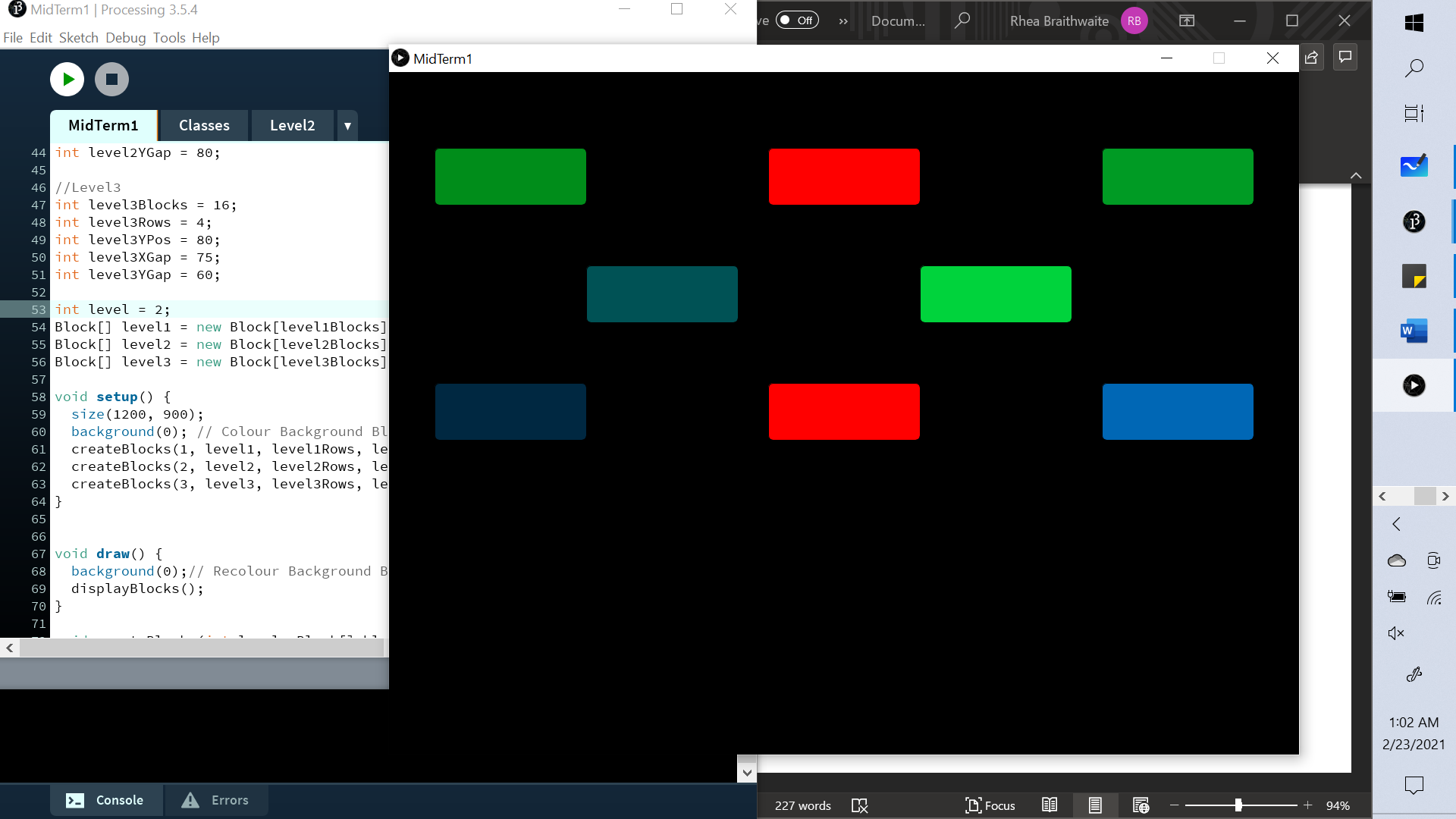
Level 3



Reflections

* In hindsight, it makes sense to make a class for the levels themselves. Each with its own array of blocks, and corresponding variables for the number of rows, the vertical gaps as well as the horizontal gaps between each block. Technically, I am doing that now so a class would be a more effective approach.
* Doing the levels is a step in the right direction to creating the game, as without them, the game cannot work.





How to Play

Block Breaker is a Single Player game with the main goal of using the ball to break the blocks of each level.

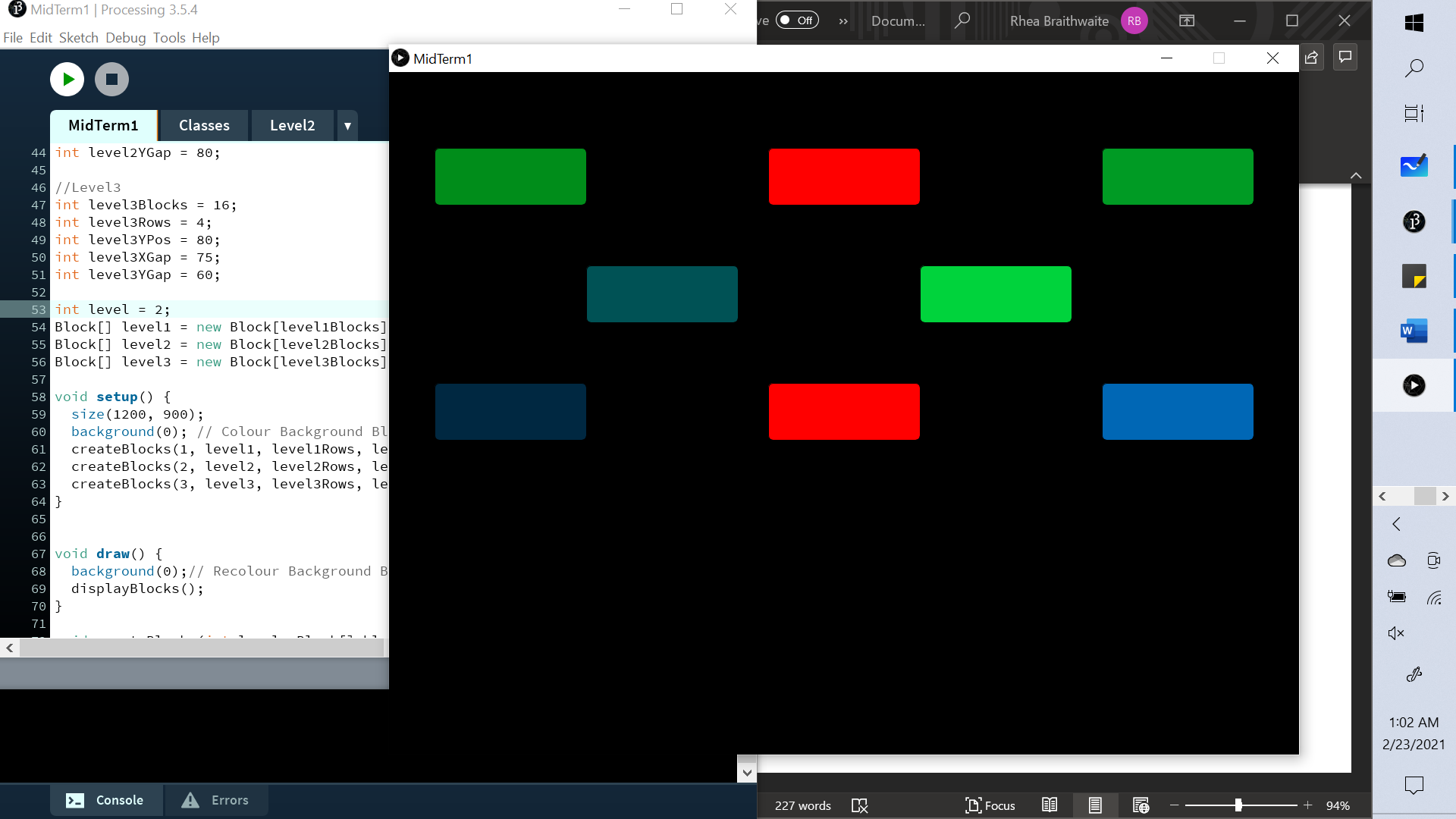
* 3 Levels each once increasing in difficulty
* 3 Lives for Each Level

At the beginning of each level, press the mouse the get the ball moving. Then use the mouse to guide the slider and bounce the ball to hit another block. If the ball misses the slider and hits the bottom edge of the screen, a life is lost.

If all lives are lost before the level is completed, then the game begins again from Level 1, so be careful.

Obstacles:

* Some levels have obstacles, which are red blocks that cannot be destroyed. The ball simply bounces off them.



Powerups?