**4-1 Journal: Career Choice and Artifact Update**

**Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?**

My career plans haven’t really changed. I started out wanting to do web development, mostly frontend stuff like React. But after learning more in this program, I realized knowing some backend too would make me a better developer. So now, instead of just focusing on frontend, I want to be more of a full stack developer. I stuck with my original plan because I enjoy building websites, and adding backend knowledge just makes me a stronger candidate.

**How has your thinking about your career evolved?**

At first, I just wanted to make cool websites with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. But now, I see that there’s way more to web development. Knowing how databases work, how to structure a project properly, and how to write efficient code all matter. I also understand now that having strong problem solving skills is just as important as knowing how to write code. My mindset has shifted from just building things that work to building things that work well and efficiently.

**Have you completed any research about your choice of career? How has this impacted your thinking? Have you thought about seeking an advanced degree or certification after earning your undergraduate degree?**

Yeah, I’ve looked into job postings and what skills companies want in web developers. I’ve seen that React, Node.js, and database management are big ones. I also noticed that companies like it when you know cloud technologies like AWS. Because of this, I plan on getting some certifications, like AWS Certified Developer or maybe Google’s cloud certification. Right now, I’m not thinking about getting a master’s degree, but if I feel like I need it later on, I’d consider it.

**Which course outcomes have you achieved so far, and which ones remain?**

**Achieved so far:**

* Cleaned up my React project by organizing the code better.
* Improved the shuffle algorithm using Fisher Yates to make it more random.
* Designed a database to store player scores and game history.

**Still working on:**

* Connecting the database to the game and making sure everything works smoothly.
* Adding more content to my ePortfolio to show what I can do.
* Writing the descriptions and explanations for my projects in the ePortfolio.

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| Checkpoint | Software Design and Engineering | Algorithms and Data Structures | Databases |
| Name of Artifact Used | React.js Card Game: War | React.js Card Game: War | React.js Card Game: War |
| Status of Initial Enhancement | Refactored components, cleaned up game logic, and started adding animations. | Improved shuffle algorithm with Fisher Yates. | Created database structure to store game data. |
| Submission Status | In progress | Almost finished | Still working on it |
| Status of Final Enhancement | Next, I’ll improve animations and tweak the UI. | Next, I’ll refine the tie breaker logic. | Still working on backend connection and data retrieval. |
| Uploaded to ePortfolio | Not yet | Not yet | Not yet |
| **Status of Finalized ePortfolio** | Still working on it | Still working on it | Still working on it |