Zachary Gill

**Reflections**

1. Think back to when you decided to take AP Computer Science.
   * What were your reasons for taking the course?

I decided to take this course because I needed to take a class online to supplement my school coursework. I like computers and am fairly proficient at programming in QB64 already so I thought it was the perfect course for me.

* + Describe what you used to think computer science was all about.

My prior and current conceptions of what computer science is about are pretty much the same. I knew about computers and computer science before taking the course.

* + What did you think you were going to learn?

When I first chose the course I was under the impression that the class was going to be able general computer science; parts of a computer, languages, databases, and basic things like that. I did not know that it was just going to be a Java language programming course. I did learn a lot in this course, however, and am comfortable with a new program language.

1. Consider how far you have come from your first HelloWorld.java program.
   * Today, if someone asked you what computer science is about, what would you say?

If someone asked me today what computer science was about, I would say that it is about using computer technology and programming languages as a tool to solve problems. It contains many real world applications and is necessary in the business world today.

* + Describe some things that you learned that surprised you during the course.

Throughout this course, some things that I learned surprised me. The idea of Object Oriented Programming; before this course I had always just thought of programming in a linear and independent way. Another thing that surprised me was the idea of classes extending and implementing each other.

* + When you think about the future, in what ways are you better or less prepared to deal with technology issues that may affect you personally or society in general?

Now that I am learned in computer science and the Java language, I am better prepared to deal with technology issues that may affect me personally or society in general. If I have to do a large task on the computer I can now think about it algorithmically. I could even write a program to preform repetitious tasks for me. I am also more prepared to eventually go into a job and help deal with technology problems that affect everyone.

1. Describe a lesson that was challenging or interesting. What was it about the lesson that made it memorable?

Lessons that I found interesting were the GridWorld Case Study lessons. I think it is cool how you had a base programming interface and then add or subtract methods or objects at will. It also shows how programming and computer science is a collaborative effort; anyone can help create new methods or modify the methods of the case study.

1. Describe a lesson that you would like to see changed. Make a specific recommendation to improve this lesson.

I would like to see more lessons about making graphical interfaces. We have learned extensively about how to manipulate and display data as text, and how to preform calculations and run functions, but never once did it mention anything about graphics and interfaces. I would like to learn how to make things like buttons, and to display images and draw lines on the screen.

1. What career possibilities do you see for yourself in the future? How might technology be involved?

In the future I can see myself being a software engineer, or maybe an IT guy for an institution or business. Technology would be involved directly, as I would be programming on a computer and writing in programming languages, or working with fixing and enhancing technology physically.