

From a young age, I've always been intrigued by the idea of computers. It all started when I was 8 years old playing Neopets. I greatly enjoyed the game, however, I wanted to know *how* it worked. From here, I had my introduction to the idea programming through basic Flash/Javascript/HTML. My interest was further fueled through other facets such as modifying firmware on my gaming consoles/phones. However, I was young and naive at these times, and while I was exploring the idea of diving deeper into the underlying layer of "how it works", I did not completely understand the fundamentals of what I was doing.

My entrance into Penn State University marked a shift in this mode of thinking. Formal education truly started to answer the question *why*. I cannot imagine myself doing another major. There is nothing more I enjoy than the challenges that the Software Engineering and Computer Science fields have to offer. School is often not enough to satisfy that hunger — I can frequently be found solving problems on Project Euler or working on a personal project.

English 202C, my technical writing course, opened my eyes to the science behind technical writing. Moreover, it made me realize there's more to writing than the writing I learned all throughout High School. One of the most prominent phrases that sticks with me is *less is more*. I was always praised by my High School teachers for my tortuously long sentences using way too many big words that I did not truly understand the meaning of.

Culture was another idea that 202C opened my eyes to. The world as a whole is becoming more and more globally connected, and while understanding each and every culture is unrealistic, realizing there's a *difference* between cultures will go a long ways. Above all, learning the basics of communicating with an appropriate amount of detail is a skill I'll continue to use and hone for the rest of my life.