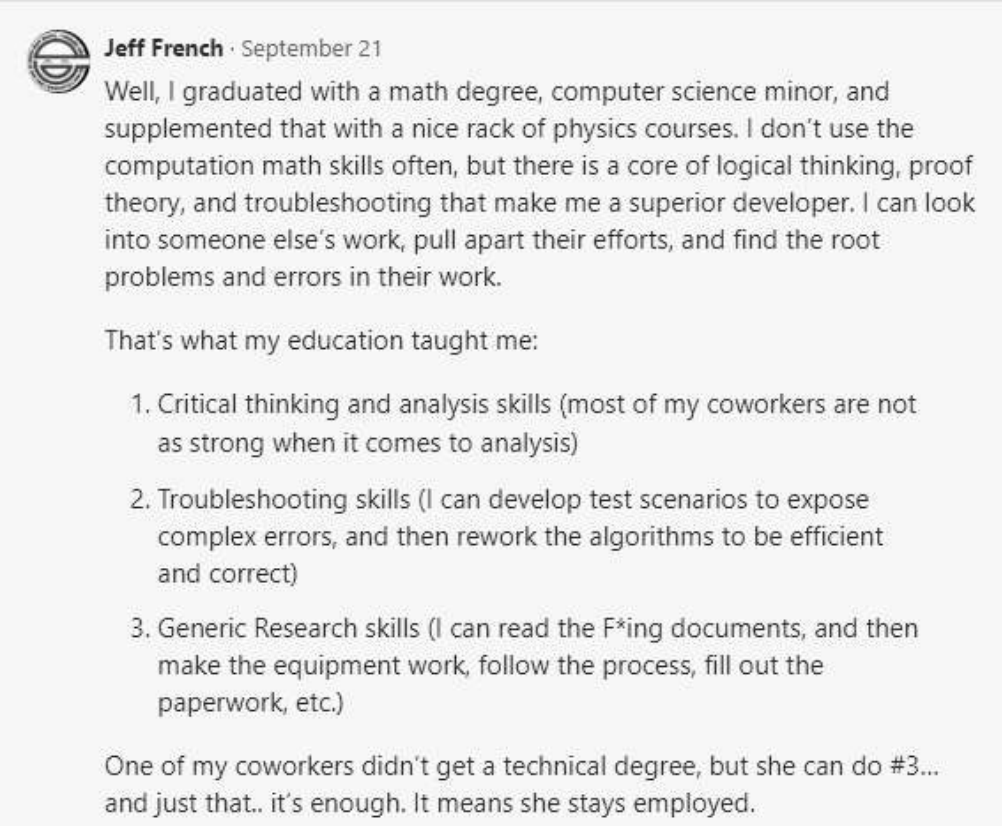
# Mid-term grades improvement

- You can ask me personally and specifically, what to do to get your grades up
- There is no reason not to have at good grade in my class:
    1. You can usually submit in-class assignments late
    2. The deadlines of the DataCamp assignments are well known
    3. The quizzes contain ample instructions and can be repeated
    4. Class attendance + Whiteboard screenshots + GitHub info
    5. You can always talk to me for personal support
- Hence, to improve your grade, do:
    - Submit in-class assignments if you could not attend class
    - Complete DataCamp assignments on time
    - Play the quizzes until you have 100% and read the feedback
    - Attend class + look at screenshots + files afterwards
    - Practice your skills whenever you can
    - When you are attending in person, really attend
    - Ask me in or outside of class if anything is unclear
- These skills are related to successful studying, which in turn is related to success in life through traditional values: **discipline**, **duty**, and **diligence**. This doesn't have anything to do with computer science.

- What I'm going for in my classes is what I think computer scientists need more than anything else:

    1. Critical thinking and analysis skills
    2. Troubleshooting skills
    3. Research skills

    This is nicely mirrored in this comment to the question "Why are computer science degrees so math intensive when the field doesn't seem to use much math at all?" on Quora.



**Jeff French** · September 21

Well, I graduated with a math degree, computer science minor, and supplemented that with a nice rack of physics courses. I don't use the computation math skills often, but there is a core of logical thinking, proof theory, and troubleshooting that make me a superior developer. I can look into someone else's work, pull apart their efforts, and find the root problems and errors in their work.

That's what my education taught me:

1. Critical thinking and analysis skills (most of my coworkers are not as strong when it comes to analysis)
2. Troubleshooting skills (I can develop test scenarios to expose complex errors, and then rework the algorithms to be efficient and correct)
3. Generic Research skills (I can read the F*ing documents, and then make the equipment work, follow the process, fill out the paperwork, etc.)

One of my coworkers didn't get a technical degree, but she can do #3... and just that.. it's enough. It means she stays employed.

Figure 1: What's math got do to with computer science?

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