Carson Peters
ISAT 252
End of Semester Narrative

I had no expectations or ideas about what I would do in this class. I have no prior experience with coding and programming, but I was interested in learning the new topic. To be completely honest, having the class online definitely made me feel as if I could not show up and still do good. I skipped the first meeting, forgot about the second, and then didn't show up to the third one because I had nothing to present. Looking back I truly wish I would have shown up to all group meetings because they were my favorite class to attend all week. I enjoyed learning and seeing the progress everyone else was doing, as well as showcasing my own progress. Being able to choose my own topic based on my interests and then go from there made the class very enjoyable and fun. When I did start coming regularly, I learned a lot and was excited every week to show up and show off my new music table or even my pong game. I feel that I cared about what I was doing and actually put in the effort to make it work. I would spend the most time out of school for this class trying to work on code or searching online for different solutions to similar problems. Overall this class exceeded any type of expectation I could have thought of. In my GitHub account, I loaded in the files I have code saved for. I should have about three or four more files in there, however when I would update my code for the music table, I would get rid of the old and replace it with the new code that worked better. The missing files include code from my first tutorial, my first three versions of the music chart, and then the original code for the pong game before I made adjustments. I like to have all of my files very organized and I didn't know I would need all the code I wrote- even drafts- so I deleted it to make my VSCode sidebar neater. I feel that I was successful with getting the music chart to look and present nicely like I wanted. I made progress for three straight weeks until I put it into a PrettyTable by importing my CSV file. I also was proud of coding for the snake game, adjusting the settings to my liking, and being able to read the code and know the commands it was giving. The best part of the group meetings for me was seeing the other group members' projects and watching as you helped them. Most of the time I wasn't sure of the code they were using or what it meant, but seeing you go on Stack Overflow, or watch YouTube videos until you figured out the problem was truly a lead-by-example way to teach us. I could solve most of my own problems by doing the same thing until I found a code or extension that could work with my project. I grew and learned the most in this class compared to all my other ones because of how this class was different. Having it be hands on, going at our own pace, and then not just having facts spit at us all the time made it much easier and a memorable learning experience. I feel that my failures in this class were not showing up to start the semester, and then not coming to you immediately for help. For some reason I was nervous to come and talk with you about missing the first meeting and I procrastinated for far too long. The second half of the semester I was on top of my schedule and I went to almost all of my classes because my grades were slipping below my expectations for myself. I feel that I actually learned useful skills in this class and they will stay with me because

I got to use them on topics of my own choice instead of forced assignments that I may not have cared about. This semester was probably the most fun of my college career because we are finally moving past covid guidelines, even though it was also the most demanding. I had harder classwork than ever before, meanwhile the university and community were repeatedly going through tragedies. To be completely honest, it was hard to come to class some days when I would hear about the events occurring in Harrisonburg and the students affected. I feel that the school and community definitely came together in support of each other, but it is disheartening to know what happened to lead us where we are. The semester as a whole was very challenging and took a toll on me both mentally and physically, but I truly did enjoy the majority of my time in classes and out. For a while I have had my mind set on going into renewable energy research and working on making renewables more efficient and widespread. However, I am taking ISAT 212 this semester and it is taking a toll on me. I have been struggling all year with the tests and understanding the material. I barely slid by 152 last year, so I was already at a disadvantage coming into the class. 212 made me take a step back and realize that maybe energy was not for me and that I should try a different concentration. Now I am planning on going into the environment sector with biotech being the back up. I may still end up in the energy field once I am out of college, but this specific energy class turned me away from the subject. Part of that is because of the class rigor and workload, but also the mathematics and technicalities behind renewable energy does not intrigue me nearly as much as the overall concept and how they can help preserve the environment. As for my final grade, I would love to say that I deserve an A- for coming to the group meetings for the last two months, always having something to show, and continually making progress with my projects. However, I know that no-showing for three weeks definitely stains the chance of getting that grade, especially since others in the group showed up for every meeting. I think that a B+ is a fair grade, but if you think that my progress and participation in the weekly meetings was enough to override the first three, then an A- is achievable. I know that this is not between 3-5 pages, but this is my second day coming back to the document and rereading the questions while thinking about the semester and this is all the thoughts I have about it. I really enjoyed having you as a professor and I want to thank you for always going step by step to help me solve my coding problems so I could make more progress. None of the work you did went unnoticed.

Github link: https://github.com/carsonp23/252-projects/tree/main.