

WEEK 4:

"SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY"

TECHNOLOGY
STUDENT
ASSOCIATION



TW: OPINION (lol)

What are you talking about?

- There are an infinite amount of opportunities every single day which you can seize to build your STEM toolkit, technical skills, and resume
- Why STEM is beautiful in this sense - can be treated as a hobby
- Independent of the classroom, completely autodidactic
- All you have to do is know where you can find these opportunities



Analogy: The Music Major... Who's Never Touched An Instrument

- Bob
 - A planned music major, junior in HS
 - Never touched an instrument in his life outside of middle school band (which is where he gained his interest from), although his household owns them and he has the means to practice
 - "I'll just start in university!"
- Question: What's going to end up happening to Bob in university?
- Question: What means can Bob learn how to practice playing instruments without a teacher?




Why Bob Will Suffer Eternal Wrath and Languish in University

- He has absolutely zero clue what in the world he is getting into because he doesn't have any firsthand experience
- No repertoire = no resume or "claim" to said experience - the musician's repertoire is the sum of their work
- Assumptions: His interest in music is based off preconceived notions - is his MS band experience really indicative of what will happen in university?
- Impostor syndrome: "All my classmates are so much better than me"



What Bob Can Do to Not Suffer Eternal Wrath and Languish

- Pick up an instrument as a hobby (obv)
- No teacher?  There are two absolutely fundamental, foundational, gargantuan, immeasurably important things he needs:
 1. The Internet
 2. Motivation
- Google is his best friend: YouTube, Yousician, MasterClass, Coursera, Brilliant, plain ol' free books
- Practicing everyday: He actually needs the motivation/passion/incentive to keep going at it (EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT)



Why should I give a damn about Bob?

There is a Bob within all of us – the side that waits for spoonfed opportunities to come to us, instead of actively seeking for them ourselves.

Seek for opportunities, and seize them. Build your resume, your skills, your passions. Kill a billion birds with one stone.

Where can I seek for opportunities?

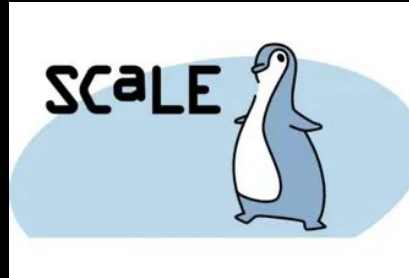
WITHIN SCHOOL

- **Clubs:** Get that pristine college application with a plethora of competitions, prizes, accolades
- **Teachers:** Reach out and ask for information about opportunities
- **Summer Programs:** Can range from university level classes to volunteering at LAUSD
- **Internships:** Opportunities to experience the workforce – whilst getting the chance to earn income

OUTSIDE SCHOOL

- **Independent Projects:** Start building your own stuff – become fluent in a variety of languages and frameworks
- **Freelancing:** Skilled enough? Start charging for your services (websites, applications, etc)
- **Networking:** Find people in the industry to connect with and seek opportunities through mutuals
- **Competitions:** Assemble a team and participate in events for experience (or even money)

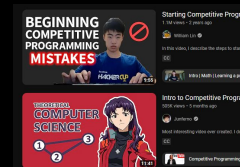
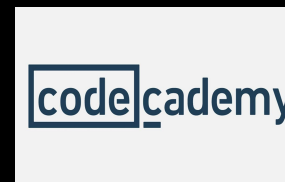
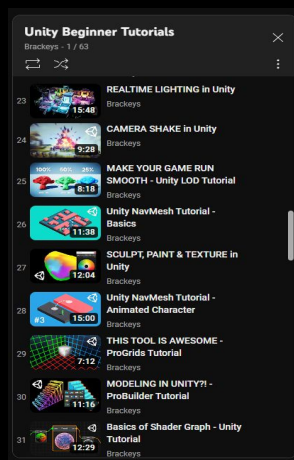
In-School Opportunities



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Out-of-School Opportunities



THANK YOU!