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Reflective Narrative

I came into this Spring semester wide eyed and ready for a challenge academically. My class schedule was the heaviest I’ve ever taken and they were some of the hardest classes I’ve ever had. My classes covered the following topics programming, physics, biotechnology, environmental issues, and studying abroad. I wasn’t very scared for most of those classes but I was afraid of not being able to do programming. I had heard horror stories of people in programming classes and I didn’t want to turn out like that. So, although I was scared my fight or flight kicked in and I dove head first into this course. I set aside weekly goals to watch videos on programming and stay in touch with my Mac book group so that I never got behind but I was also teaching myself new things. I used Code Academy, YouTube, Code Camp, and Stack Overflow to learn new tricks and I downloaded apps on my phone to learn code like Grasshopper, Mimo, R Compiler, Code Academy and LowRes NX. The applications that really helped me were Code Academy and LowRes NX sparked my interest in how game codes are created and just all the nuts and bolts that go into functioning games. Overall I put in more time then I expected weekly with practicing coding and if I had to estimate the amount of time I put in weekly it’d be about 5-6 hours. This class was never a burden to me and I never lost interest in it because I constantly learned new things. I went into the class not knowing one thing about programming and now I thoroughly enjoy programming and creating new things. Week by week I was learning and creating new things even if they weren’t successful the first time around I eventually got things to work and one thing I’m very proud of is the Fizzbuzz program. I’m proud and feel successful because when I came to class on the day it was due I figured everyone had solved it and had no problem doing so but to my surprise there weren’t many people who understood it. So, I got to teach my peers how I created the program and how I thought it through which was a huge stepping stone for me since I had no background of programming before. However, a way I failed to achieve my goals was that I didn’t really learn Java and I wanted to learn more about that program platform. But I plan on working on that over the summer since I’ll have more free time with YouTube tutorials and Code Camp. This course has taught me so much and this semester has taught me more about myself than before. Along with this class teaching me more than I expected, I learned more about myself when I studied abroad over Spring Break. My decisions this semester have taught me so much and helped me feel more like myself than ever. My first few semesters at JMU I didn’t feel like myself and I was in a funk. So, this semester has gotten me out of the funk and taught me more interesting things than any other semester at JMU.