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Creative Coding Section A Fall 2022
December 15th, 2022

A Letter to the Next Cohort

If I said this class didn't want to make me rip out my hair a couple of times, I'd be lying. But - I think that despite all challenges aside, it is possibly one of the most relevant and useful classes you will ever take as someone setting forth in a creative field. This class is the pinnacle of what the IDM program has set out to offer: using your creativity to a technical advantage and creating something you are passionate about. As someone who even came with past programming experience, this class made me realize that being able to create your own end goal is a more satisfying programming experience than most languages. Sometimes, the most difficult part won't even be the actual programming itself but rather coming up with and being able to create a narrative that you enjoy or are creatively passionate about.

Of course, there are a lot of ways you can approach this course. If you're like me, things do not come as naturally as you will have hoped. However, the great resources offered to you are there for a reason. Use them to your advantage! The Coding Train is literally your best resource outside of class. If you have no idea how to do something, by the end of a video, you'll at least have some idea of what you might need to do, or even so, you can generate a list of questions to ask LadyK.

Go to class. I know, I'm someone who has also needed to miss class because of sickness. But if you can, please go to class. Take notes. Ask questions. When critiques come, use them as a way to learn from your peers and even ask them questions about how they got to their end result. Giving them feedback will allow them the chance to also give you feedback and allow you to improve your work. It makes it a whole lot easier on yourself when you take any opportunity to have someone review your work. You want to be able to submit something you're proud of.

Submitting things. Sometimes, you won't be able to get the intended picture you wanted. You won't be able to work out a bug. That's normal! It's happened to me plenty of times and each time, it has allowed me the opportunity to realize what I need to work on. I promise you, LadyK will not scream at you if you can't figure out that your code needs a double-for loop. She's there for a reason, it's to help you and give you more insight as to what you might need to review. Take advantage of this - ask her questions about your work. If you truly put in the effort that this class deserves, in the end, you won't be dissatisfied with your grade. It will be accurate and reflective of what you gave to this class. If it's your 100%, that's the best you can do for yourself.

Love, Diana Solis