

Concordia University

Preflective Essay

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As I reflect on my academic journey, particularly the previous semester, I am struck by the profound learning experiences and challenges that have shaped my approach to programming and design. One of the most notable endeavors was my final project, where I delved into the intricate world of WebGL through the use of p5.js. This experience was a significant milestone, not only in enhancing the overall completeness of my work but also in aligning perfectly with my deep-seated creative ambitions in the realm of programming. While I reveled in the creative possibilities that WebGL opened up, I must admit that its complexity presented a formidable challenge, one that was markedly different from simpler programming tasks, such as rendering a basic rectangle on the screen. The intricate nature of WebGL, with its myriad of possibilities, has piqued my curiosity and has left me yearning for further exploration. I eagerly anticipate the possibility of continuing this journey into the fascinating world of WebGL in this semester, should the opportunity present itself.

My approach to programming has always been one that intertwines creativity with a strong visual focus. I have a fervent desire to infuse aesthetic appeal into my projects, making them not only functional but also visually captivating. A prime example of this was a project where I created a music visualizer. This visualizer featured an array of ethereal floating blobs that dynamically responded to various musical elements like bass, midrange, treble, and overall volume. I even incorporated an interactive element, allowing users to alter the color scheme of the blobs, thus enhancing their engagement with the visualizer. Another intriguing project I undertook involved the use of the Kuramoto model to simulate the mesmerizing, synchronized blinking patterns of fireflies. This project was particularly fulfilling as it allowed me to blend mathematical algorithms with coding, adding a layer of scientific rigor and visual allure to my work.

One of my most profound interests lies in the realm of creating visually stunning and interactive programs. This fascination, I believe, is deeply rooted in my childhood love for Christmas lights – a seemingly small detail that speaks volumes about my aesthetic preferences. I draw immense inspiration from the works of Moment Factory, a

Montreal-based studio celebrated for their ground-breaking use of lights in crafting immersive experiences. Two of their works stand out to me: "Astra Lumina Los Angeles," which magically transforms a botanical garden into a captivating night-time journey with projections, lighting, and an evocative soundscape inspired by the stars, and "Regalia: At the Heart of Reims Heritage," a multimedia spectacle set in the historic Notre-Dame de Reims cathedral and Saint-Remi basilica. These experiences, which vividly recreate the grandeur of French Kings' coronations, are nothing short of breathtaking. They fuel my aspiration to create similar, awe-inspiring experiences that blend technology, art, and history.

My attention was also captured by the project "Queering the Map." What makes this project stand out is not its technical complexity but its profound impact on community building. By enabling queer individuals to share their experiences and messages, it fosters a sense of belonging and unity, thereby creating a web of happiness and connection among its participants.

As I look forward to the upcoming semester, two main topics spark a particular excitement in me: the exploration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the refinement of web development skills using HTML and JavaScript. AI, as a burgeoning and experimental field, offers a unique opportunity to delve into inclusivity for diverse groups, including people of color and those with disabilities. This aligns seamlessly with my overarching goal of decolonizing creative computing. My interest in inclusive AI dovetails with the broader themes of sustainability and accessibility in design. It is essential for me to ensure that my projects are not only inclusive but also environmentally conscious and accessible to a wide and diverse audience. By weaving these principles into the fabric of my design process, I aspire to create digital experiences that are not only socially responsible but also universally accessible and engaging.

In the realm of web development, my ambition is to elevate my skill set to new heights. Moving beyond experimental designs, I aim to craft polished, effective, and

visually compelling websites that reflect both my creative vision and technical prowess. This endeavor will undoubtedly be challenging, but I am driven by a deep passion and commitment to excel in this field.